

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support putting Article 12 on the ballot this year?

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## INSIDE

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James Cameron says that Earth's deepest spot is desolate and foreboding.

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### CAMPUS LIFE



Saipan Southern High School students are becoming more aware of the need to preserve the environment.

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### LIFE & STYLE



Japanese paintings from the 1700s are being shown for the first time outside the country.

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CUC faces \$9M operating loss this fiscal year. **PAGE 3**  
Saipan casino signature drive kicks off today. **PAGE 5**

## Chinese workers face difficulty getting CW visa interview dates

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

If one thinks that applying for a Commonwealth-only worker visa at a U.S. Embassy in the Philippines is tough, think again. Chinese workers in the CNMI are facing a tougher battle as U.S. embassies in China either do not know yet what a CW visa is or the CW visa processing service is not offered just yet, unlike in the Philippines.

Joyce Su, 42, said it's been over a month since she first inquired and applied for a CW visa in mid-February because of a planned vacation in her hometown of China but several costly and time-consuming phone calls later, she has yet to get an appointment for a CW visa interview at the U.S. Embassy in China.

"First they didn't know what  
See CHINESE on Page 4

## DPS personnel happy, relieved

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Many Department of Public Safety employees expressed happiness and relief with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's decision to place DPS Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas on administrative leave.

"Yes, we're glad that our governor and lieutenant governor, our leadership, took this action. Walk around DPS and you are going to see smiling faces because it's kind of a relief," said Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero, who spearheaded the petition seeking Mafnas' immediate ouster.

Leon Guerrero said that whoever the governor appoints to be the new commissioner, they will follow the leadership, adding that jobs can be done more effectively and efficiently if the personnel are happy at work.

"We will continue and always will provide police services to

the community. We are sworn to provide three things: peace of mind, safety, and security to our Commonwealth. Whether you are visitor  
See DPS on Page 4



Mafnas

## CNMI reels from grant cancellation

- 'Substantial' portion already spent
- Legislative fix eyed for STEP grant

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI is reeling from the U.S. Small Business Administration's sudden decision to cancel a grant that awarded the Commonwealth \$1.022 million, particularly since a "substantial amount" has already been spent by the agencies involved. But officials said yesterday the CNMI can still be made eligible to receive the grant through a legislative fix.

"We have already incurred expenses; we've already spent a substantial amount relative to the financial challenges the CNMI is facing," Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune*.

The grant in question is the State Trade and Export Promotion  
See CNMI on Page 4



### KEEPING IT CLEAN

Department of Public Works employees Ken Dela Cruz, left, and Loram Pua, right, help clean up the road shoulders of vegetation and other debris on Middle Road in Chalan Laulau yesterday. Road traffic was a bit clogged as motorists passed by the cleanup area, which also needed the use of heavy equipment.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



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# Local

## Woman in 'ice' case pleads guilty

A woman arrested by U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents for allegedly selling methamphetamine or "ice" near a school on Saipan pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday.

Yue Xin Tang pleaded guilty to count 2 of the indictment charging her with distribution of "ice" within 1,000 feet near a public school.

She will be sentenced on July 6, 2012.

Tang, who appeared with court-appointed counsel Loren Sutton, was later remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

U.S. District Court for the NMI

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona is presiding over the case.

According to DEA special agent Jacqueline R. Gordon, they were able to buy \$150 and \$700 worth of "ice" from Tang using a confidential source on Oct. 27, 2011, and Nov. 9, 2011.

Gordon stated in her affidavit that, on Oct. 26, 2011, she and another DEA special agent, along with a Department of Public Safety Task Force officer, interviewed a DPS confidential source about Tang's "ice" distribution activities in Garapan.

The following day, using the confidential source, Gordon said

they were able to buy \$150 worth of "ice" from Tang at a parking lot behind Bank of Guam.

Gordon said that, on Nov. 9, 2011, they managed to buy \$700 worth of "ice" from her using the same confidential source at the parking lot of 99 Cents Store.

Tang was arrested last month after the U.S. government filed a complaint charging Tang with two counts of distribution of a controlled substance. An indictment was subsequently filed against the defendant over the same allegations. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## Accommodations sought for festival artists

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
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REPORTER

Hotel businesses on island are being encouraged to sponsor the accommodation of off-island artists and performers who will be taking part in the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

Gordon Marciano, entertainment committee chair for the annual event, said that several artists and performing groups have expressed interest in participating in the biggest arts event in the CNMI.

Marciano said these artists and performers will be coming from the neighboring island of Guam. Tinian and Rota del-

egates are also faced with the same challenge, he added.

"These brilliant artists and talented local performers would like to be part of history by having their works of art displayed or present their piece at the event," said Marciano. "They are willing to pay plane tickets out of their own pockets so the only thing that hinders their participation at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is the accommodations."

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is slated for April 20 to 22 at the Civic Center Park in Susupe.

Free to the public, the festival features a wide selection of

artwork from CNMI registered and non-registered artists, traditional or contemporary. It also showcases presentations by local and guest performing groups and musicians and festival food favorites.

"We urge the various hotels on islands to show their solidarity in promoting arts and culture by sponsoring at least an individual or a group from off-island to ensure that they demonstrate their craft to the community through the Flame Tree Arts Festival," said Marciano.

To sponsor an off-island delegate or for more information, contact Marciano at 287-1195 or the Arts Council at 322-9982 or 83.

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Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.



# CHC updates 5 pay period allotments for employees' health insurance

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Employees of the Commonwealth Health Center can now heave a sigh of relief after the healthcare corporation paid in full all their deducted premiums for health insurance yesterday.

Eli C. Buenaventura, general manager for Calvo's Insurance Underwriters Inc., confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that they received yesterday the allotment for the last two pay periods of employees.

Calvo's earlier disclosed that its members at the public hospital were delinquent in their premiums for several pay periods and that the company was thinking of terminating or canceling its services due to this nonpayment.

According to Buenaventura, the corporation paid the allotments for the first two pay periods in late February then another pay period allotment two weeks later until it fully updated yesterday the remaining two pay period allotments for plan members.

The corporation received last week \$1 million of the \$3 million

## 'CEO still calls the shots at the hospital'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Jack Torres said yesterday that all final decisions relating to the operation of the Commonwealth Health Center and the Rota and Tinian health centers are made by chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, whom he described as the person who "calls all the shots at the corporation."

Torres pointed out that despite the existence of the healthcare corporation board, the CEO has the full authority to decide on any matter be-

cause the board only serves as an advisory panel for the CEO.

"We're functioning only as an adviser to the CEO, so whatever recommendations or actions we take [at the board level], the final say still lies with the CEO," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that whoever sits as corporation CEO can either take or reject what the board approves or recommends.

For example, even if the board votes to suspend or cut the housing benefits of the hospital's off-island hires, the CEO still has the final word on the issue.

It borrowed from the Marianas Public Land Trust. The remaining \$2 million will be issued to the corporation \$500,000 every two week until everything had been drawn down. The payment received by Calvo's is believed to be part of the \$1 million initial drawdown.

"Plan members at the hospital are now up-to-date in their allotments after we received the payment today for the fourth and fifth pay periods. Since we raised our concern about delinquent allotments of our plan members, the corporation had extended its cooperation and assistance to us

"Even if we decided [at the board level] to cut or suspend this benefit, if the CEO feels that it needs to be kept and has the funds to do it, it's his call," he explained.

Compared to other governing boards of other agencies, the corporation board is also not required to regularly meet but can call for any special meeting of members, Torres said.

If there's one power that lies within the corporation board's power, it is in evaluating the performance of the CEO every year.

Torres said that the board has full confidence in Babauta's

ability to turn around the financial state of the public hospital.

Babauta is technically just a "volunteer" at the corporation after he chose to keep his "retiree" status and continue receiving his pension instead of an \$80,000 annual salary.

Torres also lauded Babauta's decision to implement the board-recommended emergency workforce reduction to reduce the organization's personnel cost. The corporation needs \$800,000 every two weeks to meet its payroll.

The corporation board has seven voting members: Torres, Pedro Dela Cruz, Roy Rios, Anthony Aguon, Dr. Jeremy Richards, Anthony Raho, and Babauta.

and we're very happy that this has now been addressed," Buenaventura said yesterday, add-

ing that plan members should not worry now.

He also disclosed that despite

the long delinquency of CHC plan members, Calvo's did not take any drastic action, in consideration of the corporation's financial challenges.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Calvo's has over 100 plan members at CHC, most of them nurses.

Health insurance coverage is optional for CHC employees, who may enroll with either of three carriers: Staywell, Aetna, and Calvo's insurance companies.

Some hospital employees interviewed yesterday said they are a bit relieved—for now. There remains other concerns, including their unpaid obligation to other providers and uncertainties about their wages.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Calvo's is just one of the fortunate ones who were paid; other providers are still waiting for their payments.

## CUC faces \$9M operating loss this fiscal year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed yesterday that the agency expects to incur an operating loss totaling \$8.9 million by the end of the fiscal year.

This is based on CUC records in the first five months of the year, or from October 2011 through February 2012.

Warren revealed that for power alone, they project the operating loss to reach \$5.9 million. For water, it is expected to reach \$1.8 million and for wastewater, \$1.2 million.

Power has the largest shortfall, mainly due to maintenance costs and lower than anticipated kilowatt-hour sales, according to Warren.

On the rate case CUC filed last January, the revenue estimates CUC developed assumed that total usage consumed by ratepayers would be around 254,880,857 kWh during the test year. Unfortunately, due to a general decline in economic activity and conservation or a reduction in use by CUC customers, CUC's current projection is that annualized kWh sales will be 204,984,199, a decline of almost 20 percent.

For maintenance cost, Warren said that CUC is currently look-

ing for ways to fund this primarily through additional grant funding from the Department of the Interior.

"Also, a portion of the rate increase approved in January was intended to help mitigate the shortage in revenues attributable to the lower-than-expected kilowatt-hour sales," Warren said.

When asked about the immediate impact of this projected operating losses, he said it is too early to see any meaningful impact.

The projected shortfall for water and wastewater, meantime, is due to increasing operating costs as a result of inflation and other factors beyond CUC's control.

According to Warren, CUC has the following projected revenues this fiscal year: power, \$6.7 million; water, \$10.2 million; and wastewater, \$5.2 million.

Meantime, the budgeted revenues of the agency include: power, \$108.8 million; water, \$15.2 million; and wastewater, \$7.4 million.

### LEAC increase in the works

Warren told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that CUC expects an increase in the current leveled energy adjustment clause, or LEAC, in April.

"We anticipate a LEAC increase for April, but I will not

know the exact amounts until I receive the Mean of Platts Singapore pricing from Mobil early next week," he said.

In the January public hearing, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission adopted a revised LEAC tariff, in anticipation of the CPUC not having a quorum.

The revised tariff states: "In the event that the CPUC is not functional for any period of time in which the LEAC rate is effective and the MOPS monthly pricing as supplied by Mobil Oil Guam, Inc. to CUC equals or exceeds a 4.5 percent differential in the average per gallon or equal or is below a 4.5 percent differential in the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the then current LEAC rate, CUC shall change the LEAC rate to reflect the higher/lower MOPS price."

This change shall be calculated on the basis of the ratio of the then current monthly MOPS pricing to the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current LEAC rate.

The present rate is \$0.30550 per kWh—and about 4 percent of the rate is equivalent to 12 to 15 cents of the current rate.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. The other element of the bill is the electric base rate.

## Jury trial set in attempted murder case

The Superior Court has set a June 25, 2012, jury trial for a 20-year-old man facing attempted first-degree murder charges in connection with a foiled robbery of two Chinese nationals in 2009.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered the parties in the case against Alfred Aldan Demapan to appear on June 6, 2012, to discuss trial preparation issues.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Demapan with attempted first-degree murder, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, conspiracy to commit robbery, and two counts of attempted robbery.

According to chief prosecutor Peter Prestley in the charging document, the attempted

first-degree murder and attempted robbery occurred on Dec. 29, 2009, on Saipan. Prestley said that Demapan tried to kill Hu Cai during the robbery attempt by attacking him with a hammer.

Demapan allegedly attempted to rob Cai and Shu Zhou of their money. No other details were provided in court papers. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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## SCHOOL BURGLARY

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Garapan Elementary School maintenance staff uses a piece of wood to temporarily close the damaged classroom window of a fifth grade class where brand new computers and LCD projector were stolen early Sunday morning. Another kindergarten class, located at MIHA Housing, was also burglarized Monday morning. The burglars took the class computer, printer, laptop, and other materials

## CHINESE

From Page 1

CW visa is. I called several times. Every phone call I have to buy special card, which is \$5.50 to \$8 for every 12 minutes. I already called many times," said Su, who has been a legal foreign worker in the CNMI for 23 years.

Su, who works at a small business in Garapan, said she would have to cancel her vacation plans if the U.S. Embassy in China still cannot set an appointment for an interview before her supposed departure date of April 30.

She also worries that once she gets a CW visa interview appointment, she won't be able to get her CW visa before her scheduled return to Saipan on May 24.

A foreign worker from the Philippines earlier said he got his CW visa three weeks after his interview at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. But the application process took a month, including the date when he started setting an interview date.

In contrast, applying for a routine tourist visa, called B1-B2, usually takes less than a week.

Anning Huang, a market-

ing manager at Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan, is also finding it difficult to get a CW visa interview appointment.

Huang said he has already placed at least three calls to the U.S. visa processing center in China to make an interview appointment for a CW visa application, to no avail.

"I have been calling and every time I call, they tell me to call again because they do not have available interview dates yet," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

Huang, who came to Saipan in 1982 and started working for the Hyatt Regency since 1985, said he is now worried that he might not be able to go on vacation because of the delays in getting a CW visa application interview date.

He said he's only allowed a two-week vacation.

Huang also said he has been paying federal taxes for 30 years and is now concerned that he might not be able to get his retirement benefits because of uncertainties in his immigration status.

The CW visa category was created pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229 signed in May 2008, which placed CNMI immigration

under federal control effective Nov. 28, 2009. The regulations were published only in September 2011 for a number of reasons.

Foreign workers in the CNMI who wish to re-enter the Commonwealth after a vacation in a non-U.S. area such as China or the Philippines need to secure a CW visa at a U.S. embassy.

A CW visa is solely for people who have been approved a CW status and will be valid until Dec. 31, 2014, when the transition to federal immigration system period ends.

But each CW-1 visa has to be renewed every year and only until 2014, unless the transition period is extended.

The transitional visa is "valid only for entrance into the CNMI."

Visa holders cannot use CW visas to travel to or work anywhere else in the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Manila is so far the only one among Asian countries that is now providing application services online/phone in for CW-1 and CW-2 visa applications for a fee of \$150 each, and so far the only one that has posted such services on their websites.

## DPS

From Page 1

or staying here, that doesn't make a difference," Leon Guerrero said.

Saipan Tribune visited DPS yesterday afternoon and chanced upon smiling employees.

"No more Mafnas!" one officer said, as two other officers laughed.

"We're better without Mafnas," said an employee at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

A total of 139 personnel at DPS Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, signed the petition.

Although Mafnas is already on administrative leave, Leon Guerrero said they still welcome any DPS employees who want to affix their signatures on the petition.

According to the petition, "Mafnas' authoritarian leadership, confrontational ap-

proach, micro-management, and lack of faith and trust in the staff of the Department of Public Safety has brought a never ending fear of reprisal, humiliation, and degradation within our rank and file."

Meanwhile, a motorist shared a "scary encounter" with Mafnas in November 2011. The motorist told Saipan Tribune he was going south on Middle Road to take his 4-year-old son to school when Mafnas allegedly played a "cat and mouse game" with him on the road by tailgating his car "and just about rear-ending" his vehicle.

When the motorist stopped at a red light to turn left, the DPS commissioner allegedly parked his white SUV next to him and threatened to take him to jail.

Mafnas allegedly accused the motorist of speeding, which the motorist denied.

"The rage in his face made it

## House JGO: No hearing on Mafnas issues for now

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations chair Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that most panel members decided not to call for an oversight hearing on the allegations against Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ray Mafnas since Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has already placed Mafnas under administrative leave since Monday and the Office of the Attorney General has also started reviewing the matter.

"We decided to allow the process started by the governor and the AG to move on. We

also acknowledge the separation of powers," Demapan told Saipan Tribune.

He, however, said the JGO panel is "closely monitoring" the issues surrounding the complaints against Mafnas.

Demapan, who met with some JGO committee members and the House legal counsel yesterday, said the committee would have taken a different approach had the governor or the OAG not acted promptly to address the matter.

"We do not want to invoke our oversight hearing authority because there are already actions taken by the governor and the AG's Office. We do not want to jeopardize the AG's

investigation," he said, adding that the panel is now aware of the sentiments of DPS employees concerning Mafnas.

Demapan said he hopes public safety will not be jeopardized as the process to address DPS employees' concerns move forward.

The DPS employees who signed the petition asked the governor to remove Mafnas.

The petition says "Mafnas' authoritarian leadership, confrontational approach, micro-management, and lack of faith and trust in the staff of the Department of Public Safety has brought a never ending fear of reprisal, humiliation, and degradation within our rank and file."

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for clarification, said that generally, administrative leaves is "paid leave."

Fitial placed Mafnas on administrative leave on Monday, and designated DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro to serve as acting commissioner for both DPS and the Department of Corrections effective immediately.

Demapan said that Fitial met with Mafnas before issuing a memo on Monday designating Ogumoro as acting DPS/DOC commissioner.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham said the OAG has sought assistance from the U.S. Attorney's Office on this matter.

a very, very scary experience. My little boy was scared to death of this guy," the motor-

ist said.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get comment from Ma-

fanas. He, however, earlier stated that allegations against him are the product of individuals "with

ulterior motives to fulfill their selfish agenda."

## CNMI

From Page 1

tion, or STEP, which aims to increase the number of small businesses that are exporting, and increase these small businesses' value of exports.

Igisomar said the program authorized the CNMI to spend and get reimbursed for such expenses related to the grant.

Press secretary Angel Demapan and Igisomar separately said the Office of the Attorney General is now looking into the matter, especially because SBA cancelled the grant even before the CNMI could get reimbursements for its expenses related to the STEP grant.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said he is "disappointed" with SBA's reversal of its written commitment to him a year ago that the CNMI is fully

eligible to apply for and receive STEP grant.

Sablan said he brought SBA officials to Capitol Hill yesterday to "explain" the agency's "sudden decision to cancel" a STEP grant to the CNMI.

The problem stems from the absence of the CNMI in one section of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, and a bill he introduced last year, H.R. 1304, would have made the technical correction to the Act.

He said Dario Gomez, associate administrator of the Office of International Trade, and his deputy Luz Hopewell, who issued the April 2011 letter saying the CNMI was eligible, "acknowledged the agency's mistake in [yesterday's] meeting."

"They also agreed to look at every available avenue to get the development funds to the islands," he said.

Sablan apologized to ev-

eryone in the CNMI who had worked hard to put together the competitive grant application, which netted the Northern Marianas over \$1 million, and to the businesses that would benefit from the trade promotion.

"I take responsibility. I thought this issue was successfully resolved a year ago and it was not," Sablan said.

### Legislative fix

Sablan introduced HR 1304 even before he got written assurance from SBA that their definition of "state" includes the CNMI and that the Commonwealth therefore was eligible to apply.

In the same April 2011 letter from SBA, they invited and encouraged the Northern Marianas to compete for STEP grant funds.

But the STEP Program, under the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, defines eligible State as "Several States of the United

States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam."

Sablan said he urged SBA officials at yesterday's meeting to find another way to use the grant funds to support tourism and other development in the CNMI.

He said SBA agreed to continue working on alternatives to get the money to the Marianas and to work with him on his legislation to ensure CNMI eligibility in future rounds of STEP grants.

Demapan said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has yet to see a copy of Sablan's H.R. 1304 but he said the Fitial administration "will support any measure that seeks to give equal treatment to the CNMI as is afforded other U.S. states and territories."

"During these challenging times, we seek to maximize

grant funds to the fullest extent possible," the press secretary said.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI, also expressed disappointment with SBA's decision to cancel the grant for the CNMI.

"It's puzzling that the International Trade Office would notify the CNMI so late in the process that the CNMI is ineligible," said Chamber president Douglas Brennan.

Brennan said the exclusion will "hurt" the Marianas Visitors Authority "the most and many small CNMI businesses."

"SCC was to be involved in the exit assessment of those trying to qualify for export status. This hurts in a time of need," Brennan added.

Commerce's Igisomar acknowledged that MVA is one of four CNMI government agen-

cies working together on the STEP grant, along with Commerce, the Commonwealth Development Authority, and the CNMI Small Business Development Center.

He said the MVA would have been able to provide and attend "trade shows" using STEP grant funds to help promote the CNMI as a tourist destination.

Igisomar said a little over half of the \$1.022 million was for MVA.

Commerce announced the "unfortunate news" from SBA on Monday night.

As a result of SBA's notice of the STEP grant cancellation and that the Commonwealth will not be eligible to apply for future STEP awards, Commerce notified parties concerned in the CNMI that "effective immediately, all activities and/or expenditures under the CNMI STEP Grant Program are hereby cancelled."



# Saipan casino signature drive kicks off today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A core group led by retiree Dr. Jack Angello kicks off today a campaign to solicit at least 2,500 to 2,700 signatures within weeks so that the question of whether voters would like casino gaming to be legalized on Saipan would be included in the Nov. 6 ballot.

"We want people to sign the petition if they want to help the Retirement Fund, the medical referral program, student scholarship, [and] restore the 80 work hours and other programs," said Angello.

The signature drive will be launched at 4:30pm today at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Angello, the first one to sign the petition ahead of today's official launching, said he gave the first set of copies of the 22-page initiative and signature pages yesterday to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said he will definitely sign the casino petition today.

"I'd like to ask the people to support this initiative and understand why we need this initiative. We need to generate revenues for our economy and to help our people," said Torres, co-author of a House casino bill that the Senate rejected and author of a local casino bill that the governor vetoed over constitutionality concern.

Angello said they will also

be giving members of the community a one-page "fact sheet" that lists the major points of the casino initiative, including how the casino revenues from taxes will be used. For example, to restore the 80-hour work every two weeks instead of continuing on a 64-hour basis.

"The CNMI taxes will be appropriated in annual appropriation acts. The local revenues may only be expended in the Third Senatorial District (Saipan)," the fact sheet says.

Besides business gross revenue tax, license fees and other taxes and fees, there will also be a 7.5 percent gross gaming revenue tax for Saipan.

Casinos are exempt from the CNMI poker machine license fee, the fact sheet adds.

It also says that local revenues, license fees, and gross gaming revenue tax will be used as follows: 50 percent will go to the NMI Retirement Fund for payment of retirement benefits accrued by employees while living on Saipan; 20 percent will fund the medical referral program for Saipan residents; 20 percent for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Board; and other programs and purposes as determined by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), co-author of the House bill that the Senate recently rejected, said he would like to read

the full text of the casino initiative first before signing off on it. Demapan's bill had required a \$10 million casino license fee.

The 22-page local initiative that Angello's group is launching requires a \$5 million initial license fee to be paid within 90 days after the license approval and \$200,000 in annual license fee every year thereafter.

Three casino licenses are available: two for an existing hotel with at least 250 guest rooms, golf club resort or resort, and one for a new investment of at least \$100 million inclusive of a hotel resort or convention center.

One other casino license is also available to a Northern Marianas descent corporation.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), one of only two senators who voted in support of the House casino bill, said yesterday he has yet to see this petition but he said generally supports an initiative that will help the Retirement Fund, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and other programs and services.

"I hope there's going to be a unified Saipan leadership position on this," he said.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said he would sign the petition,

mainly because he likes the question to be placed on the ballot so that Saipan voters will decide for themselves whether they like casinos on the island or not.

"I would respect the wish of the people," he said, adding that he is not personally supporting casinos and he has been consistent with his votes on casino legislation.

Saipan voters twice rejected the casino question; the last one was in 2007.

Yumul is also encouraging Saipan voters to carefully read the text of the initiative before signing them.

He pointed out some possible

problem areas in the text of the initiative. For example, the initiative says of the five Saipan-Northern Islands Gaming Commission member, three will be appointed by the governor and two will be appointed by the Saipan mayor. Yumul questioned why the Northern Islands mayor is left out in the appointment of commissioners.

Yumul said it is also not clear whether the casino to be owned and operated by a Northern Marianas descent corporation is also required to pay the casino license fees imposed on the other non-NMD investors.

## CDA: Loan payments improve under debt relief program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority has seen its loan payment collections improve through an increase in the number of borrowers availing of the debt relief program.

Loan manager Oscar Camacho said they now have 44 borrowers under the debt relief program, compared to last year's 34.

But despite moving in 10 new clients to the program, Camacho noted that 10 clients are experiencing difficulty in updating their payments to CDA.

"We are addressing these via conferences, consultations,

workout plans, catch up plans, etc.," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* via email.

Camacho also noted that one client "completely stopped" making payments, which they are trying to address through foreclosure or the deed in lieu of foreclosure.

Executive director Manuel A. Sablan described the increase in the number of clients under the debt relief program and the improvement in collections as "making progress."

"There's more delinquent borrowers that are availing themselves [of] this program. We can see that the collections have improved because some of these borrowers are

never even making any payment for years. We restructure it and they're making payments now," Sablan said.

According to him, both the debt relief program and the deed in lieu of foreclosure "are two vehicles that we're using to find ways to alleviate the situation" on delinquent loans.

Sablan pointed out that foreclosing a property would be their last resort.

"One of the things that we're doing really is trying to kill fires, trying to find solutions to some of the problems that have been generated over the years," he explained. "We've come to a situation where everything seems to

be going against us in terms of economic development so we'll find ways to be proactive out there."

Camacho said that besides the debt relief program, loans under the Development Corporation Division also make up the bulk of their performing loans.

Of the 51 listed clients in the DCD, 19 are in the buy-back program or loans that CDA purchased back from banks and the U.S. Small Business Administration, while 15 are in "extreme payment difficulty."

"A handful are having a hard time but are paying and more than dozen remain in real good shape," said Camacho.

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# PSS suspends hiring of regular classroom teachers

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System has placed a moratorium on the hiring of regular classroom teachers because of the uncertainty of its budget, according to acting education commissioner Glenn Muña.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that the hiring freeze will remain in effect until the school system is allocated enough funds.

PSS, which has 19 campuses and over 10,000 students on

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, was allocated just \$30 million this fiscal year.

To ease the teacher shortage, Muña said that PSS will, for the meantime, hire short-term and long-term substitutes.

"We froze all our vacant FTEs [full time employees] for classroom teachers and we only hired substitutes who are being paid only when they work, or on a daily basis," Muña said, believing the system will be able to save up on personnel costs this way.

*Saipan Tribune* tried yesterday to obtain the total number of teachers and substitutes currently teaching at PSS, but human resources director Coreen Palacios refused to disclose anything pending the approval of Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, who is off-island but is expected to be back next week.

Muña said the lack of funding is hampering PSS' recruitment efforts and that the decision to rely on substitutes for now will stay until enough monies are

identified to hire regular teachers, who are usually given two-year contracts.

PSS pays highly qualified teachers a basic salary of \$30,000, but this could go up to \$47,000 depending on credentials and qualifications. This is on top of other benefits.

For substitutes, they are paid on a daily basis and get no benefits. Their term ranges from just weeks to a whole school year, depending on the need of the school. PSS pays substitutes with bachelor's

degrees \$100 per day, while those with associate degrees get \$60 a day.

A substitute is not required to be a highly qualified teacher but Muña said that many of their substitutes are highly qualified.

According to him, hiring substitutes allows PSS to work within its budget without jeopardizing student learning.

ardizing student learning.

At Garapan Elementary School, three of the school's 37 teachers are substitutes. At Hopwood Junior High School, seven of its 45 teachers are substitutes. At Kagman High School, two of the 26 teachers are substitutes. The numbers were provided by each school's principal.

## Red Cross walkathon raises \$45,000

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Despite the slow economy, the American Red Cross NMI Chapter raised some \$45,000 from its annual walkathon fundraiser on Saturday.

Executive director John Hirsh said yesterday that this is only "slightly below" last year's take, about \$48,000.

Hirsh pointed out, though, that they had "a few more walkers" that turned up for this year's

walkathon.

From just 1,994 walkers last year, this year's walkers totaled 2,077, each one donating \$15 or submitting pledge forms.

This year marked the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fundraising event and started from 4-H Building in Susupe to Garapan Fishing Base and back.

"That was kind of the telling part of this, that more people participated but we raised a little less money," Hirsh told *Saipan Tribune*. "In a way, it makes sense.

People wanted to be out there, wanted to help support the Red Cross but just couldn't quite do it at a level that they had done last year. We certainly understand that; everybody understands that."

Hirsh disclosed that of the \$45,000 net proceeds, \$4,095 came from Tinian while \$4,323 was from Rota.

He also revealed that the most money raised by a student for the event amounted to \$1,200.

Hirsh said the Red Cross is "very happy" with the overall

outcome of the event. "We know that it's more of a strain on families to help give away resources to people beyond their own family. But as I said so many times, they do understand Red Cross and how much it has helped people in this community over the years, how it touches everybody's lives. They're willing to come out and support us. We couldn't do it without the generosity of our donors, volunteers, [and] walkers that contribute to the event."

## Agricultural fair seeks donations

The Saipan Agricultural Fair Association is seeking the support of the business community for the 2012 Agricultural Fair in May.

Treasurer Marianne Teregeyo said yesterday that they will be soliciting in-kind donations,

particularly from companies that deal with farming equipment and supplies such as fertilizers and seeds.

Teregeyo said the donations will be used as prizes for the students who will take part in the

various contest categories for the event slated for May 26 at the Civic Center grounds in Susupe.

The Agricultural Fair is an annual event that showcases locally grown agricultural produce and livestock to promote and support


local farmers and ranchers.

Teregeyo disclosed that they have prepared solicitation letters that will be distributed to various companies within the week.


She said they are also encouraging these businesses to set up booths at the event "because that's the best day for them to reach out to their market." Vendors are also invited to sell their products and merchandise at the fair.

The 2012 Agricultural Fair is a collaborative effort with the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Agriculture and the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services.

To donate prizes or for more information, call 322-9830. (Clarissa V. David)



**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
P.O. Box 501521, Navy Hill – Bldg. N2  
Saipan, MP 96950



*"Together We Can Build A Future"*

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## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be advised that the OVR staff will be on a two-day staff development this coming Wednesday and Thursday (03/28-29/12) from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Because of this important training, the OVR office will be closed temporarily just for these two days. Your understanding and support will be much appreciated. For any emergency alert, 287-6548 and 287-6538 should be contacted. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

*This message is brought to you by OVR management and paid for by a grant from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Office of the Governor and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Friday, March 30, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, 1st Floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

#### AGENDA

##### I. Preliminary

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
  - a. 01/13/2012 Regular Board Meeting
  - b. 01/18/2012 Regular Board Meeting
  - c. 02/03/2012 Regular Board Meeting
  - d. 02/24/2012 Regular Board Meeting
  - e. 03/02/2012 Regular Board Meeting

##### II. Public Comments

##### III. Executive Session

##### IV. Unfinished Business

1. Emergency Regulations - Adoption

##### V. New Business

1. Review and Adoption of Scholarship Applications
2. Determination of Disbursement of the Spring 2012 Semester Awards
3. Memorandum of Agreement Revision
4. Award Release Forms - Amendment

##### VI. Miscellaneous Matters

- VII. Discussion of Agenda for Next Board meeting
- VIII. Adjournment

/S/ **LYDIA F. BARCHINAS**  
Acting Chairwoman

<sup>1</sup>We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

<sup>2</sup>Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

## CUC says it exceeded EPA condition on water meter replacement project

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has reported that it has substantially met the first requirement of its agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to replace water meters in 450 locations by March 31, 2012.

CUC executive director Alan W. Fletcher informed EPA Region 9 project coordinator Michael Lee in a letter dated March 24, 2012, about CUC's compliance with their status conference stipulation.

CUC legal counsel Deborah E. Fisher submitted Fletcher's report to the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday.

In the status conference on March 12, 2011, between CUC and EPA, the parties agreed to new provisions on the installation of replacement meters at all locations with failed or non-functioning meters.

## Solomons ranks highest for gender-based violence

**HONIARA, Solomon Islands** (Solomon Times/PIR)—The World Bank has rated Solomon Islands as the worst country in the world for sexual violence against women.

In its latest report on Gender Equality and Development, the World Bank says 64 percent of women report they have been victims of domestic violence.


The World Bank's Andrew Mason told the launch of the report in

Honiara that sexual violence was bad across the Pacific but worst of all in the Solomons.


"Sexual violence is higher on average in Pacific Island countries than in East Asia for example," he said.

"But usually you see physical violence being more prevalent than sexual violence.

"The only country that is an exception for the data that we have is Solomon Islands."



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**



**INVITATION FOR BID**  
**IFB NO.: IFB12-OHS-034**

**SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 16, 2012**      **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"PREPAREDNESS SUPPLIES FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY"**


PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MAY RETRIEVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE INVITATION FOR BIDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 09, 2012.**


**THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.**

**THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.**

/S/ **MARVIN K. SEMAN**      /S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY      DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**



**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB12-DEQ-063**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 24, 2012**      **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"PURCHASE OF EIGHT (8) COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ **FRANK M. RABAUJMAN**      /S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
DIRECTOR OF DEQ      DIRECTOR, P&S



# Cameron: Earth's deepest spot desolate, foreboding

By SETH BORENSTEIN  
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—In James Cameron's fantasy films, like "Avatar" and "The Abyss," the unexplored is splashed in color and fraught with alien danger. But on his dive to the deepest place on Earth, reality proved far different: white, barren and bland.

Yet otherworldly—and amazing.

"I felt like I literally, in the space of one day, had gone to another planet and come back," Cameron said Monday after returning from the cold, dark place in the western Pacific Ocean, seven miles (11 1/4 kilometers) below the surface. "It was a very surreal day."

Cameron is the first person to explore the deepest valley in the ocean since two men made a 20-minute foray there more than half a century ago. He spent about three hours gliding through the icy darkness, illuminated only by special lights on the one-man sub he helped design. That was only about half as long as planned because his battery ran low.

This deepest section of the 1,500-mile (2,415-kilometer)-long Mariana Trench is so untouched that at first it appeared dull. But there's something oddly dark and compelling about the first snippets of video that Cameron shot. It's not what you see, but where it puts you. There is a sense of aloneness that Cameron conveys in the wordless video showing his sub gliding across what he calls "the very soft, almost gelatinous flat plain."

"My feeling was one of complete isolation from all of hu-



AP  
Filmmaker and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence James Cameron emerges from the Deepsea Challenger submersible after his successful solo dive to the Mariana Trench, the deepest part of the ocean, Monday March 26, 2011.

he's already filming it in 3D for later viewing.

To Cameron, the main thing was to appreciate just being there. He didn't do that when he first dove to the wreck of the Titanic, and Apollo astronauts have said they never had time to savor where they were.

"There had to be a moment where I just stopped, and took it in, and said, 'This is where I am; I'm at the bottom of the ocean, the deepest place on Earth. What does that mean?'" Cameron told reporters during a conference call.

"I just sat there looking out the window, looking at this barren, desolate lunar plain, appre-

chicken—to set out.

Cameron said the mission was all about exploration, science and discovery. He is the only person to dive there solo, using a lime-green sub called Deepsea Challenger. He is the first person to reach that depth—35,576 feet (10,843.5 meters)—since it was initially explored in 1960.

There had been a race to reach the bottom among rich and famous adventurers. Sir Richard Branson, founder of the Virgin Group, has been building his own one-man sub to explore the ocean depths. Cameron's dive was "a fantastic achievement," Branson told The Associated Press.

Branson said he hoped to be the first to explore a different deep-sea location, diving later this year to the deepest part of the Atlantic, the Puerto Rican trench, which is only five miles from his home. Just shy of six miles deep, the area has not been explored yet.

Branson also hopes to join Cameron in a tandem dive of solo subs. "Together, we'll make a formidable team," he said.

While Cameron's dive was far longer than that of U.S. Navy Capt. Don Walsh and Swiss engineer Jacques Piccard 52 years ago, he didn't reach the trench walls because he was running low on battery power. He said he would return, as would the sub's Australian co-designer, Ron Allum.

"I see this as the beginning," Cameron said. "It's not a one-time deal and then moving on. This is the beginning of opening up this new frontier."

"To me, the story is in the people in their quest and curiosity and their attempt to understand."

The trip to the deepest point took two hours and 36 minutes and started Sunday afternoon, U.S. East Coast time.

His return aboard his 12-ton sub was a "faster-than-expected 70-minute ascent," according

to National Geographic, which sponsored the expedition. Cameron is a National Geographic explorer-in-residence.

The only thing that went wrong was a hydraulic failure that kept Cameron from collecting rocks and critters and bringing them back to land.

Science like this takes time, but Cameron is committed to doing it, said Woods Hole's Bowen, who ran a program that sent an unmanned sub to the same place in 2009.

"The reality of exploring such an environment is that at times it can be very boring; exploring these environments isn't always about some dramatic highly visual discovery," Bowen said. "The scientific process is exhausting and sometimes it takes a significant amount of sweat, if you will, to uncover secrets."

Cameron did sweat—and

shiver.

When the 6-foot-2 (1.87-meter) Cameron climbed into the cramped sub, his head hit one end and his feet the other. It was warm outside because it was near the equator; it was toasty inside, temperatures topping 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius), because of the heat given off by the sub's electronics. It felt "like a sauna," he said.

But as he plunged into the deep, it grew cold inside the sub as the waters outside dropped to around 36 degrees (2 Celsius), he said.

The pressure on the sub was immense—comparable to three SUVs resting on a toe. The super-strong sub shrank three inches under that pressure, Cameron said.

"It's a very weird environment," he said. "I can't say it's very comfortable. And you can't stretch out."

## ON THE NET

- James Cameron and National Geographic's Deepsea Challenge site: <http://deepseachallenge.com/>
- NOAA's animation of diving into the Mariana Trench: <http://bit.ly/AxD364>
- Branson's Virgin Oceanic: <http://www.virginioceanic.com/>
- DOER Marine: <http://www.doermarine.com/>
- Triton Submarines: <http://tritonsubs.com/>
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Nereus sub: <http://www.whoi.edu/main/nereus>

manity," Cameron said.

It may not have looked all that dramatic and, in a way, Cameron was "doing exploration with training wheels," said Andy Bowen, who heads the deep submergence lab at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

But it was an amazing start.

The images "do lack the visual impact of highly colorized 3D spectacular representations of the ocean," Bowen said. But there are still "dramatic discoveries to be made."

The minute-long snippet, released by trip sponsor National Geographic, is just a coming attraction. Cameron will keep diving in the area, some 200 miles (322 kilometers) southwest of the island of Guam, where the depth of the trench is called Challenger Deep. And

ciating," Cameron said.

He also realized how alone he was, with that much water above him.

"It's really the sense of isolation, more than anything, realizing how tiny you are down in this big, vast, black, unknown and unexplored place," the "Titanic" director said.

Cameron said he had hoped to see some sort of strange deep sea creature that would excite the storyteller in him, but he didn't.

He didn't see tracks of small primitive sea animals on the ocean floor, as he did when he dove more than five miles (eight kilometers) down several weeks ago. All he saw was voracious shrimp-like critters no bigger than an inch (2.5 centimeters). In future missions, Cameron plans to bring "bait"—like

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FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

**JOHN 3:16**

## Coming to Saipan!

Series Begins: March 24th – April 14th • 7:00PM to 8:20PM

Seminars will be offered at 3 locations:

■ SDA Elementary School in San Antonio

■ China Town (across Luka Ben)

■ Kagman Seven Day Adventist Church (Next to Kagman Mart)

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**For more information please call 285-0782**



# Emergency Preparedness Fair this Saturday

Just a year ago this month, Japan was hit by the devastating Tohoku tsunami. Lives were lost and there was much disruption to normal life. How can we prepare ourselves for the unexpected to happen, for natural disasters that could occur or for illnesses or job loss? While Sendai was reeling from the effects of this huge underwater earthquake, Red Cross warnings were put out all the way to North and South America. The Pacific Islands were warned that some smaller islands could be completely covered by waves that an earthquake this size would cause.

With the concern that we all have for the well-being of ourselves and for our families, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, also known as the Mormon Church, is pulling the resources and talents of its members to teach to the Saipan community emergency preparedness skills at an Emergency Preparedness Fair this Saturday, March 31, from 8am to noon.

"Whether it be improving job training and resume strength, keeping a financial reserve, knowing how to navigate a natural disaster, or storing sufficient food and necessities in your home, preparedness is an



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
An Emergency Preparedness Fair will be held this Saturday, March 31, from 8am to 12pm at the LDS Church on Middle Road just north of McDonald's Calan Laulau branch. Some of the presenters are shown above.

important theme in self-reliance. To successfully pass through difficult times using one's own resources is not only an asset to the individual and family, but also extends to strengthen communities," said Dirk Tanner, chairman of the fair.

The eight topics to be covered in 30-minute classes repeated five times throughout the morning are: food storage and pres-

ervation, 72-hour kits, first aid and first aid kits, education and job training and advancement skills, important documents to store, natural and local disaster preparedness, financial preparedness, and spiritual strength in trials.

"When individuals are living in a self-reliant manner, not only will the burden of dependence on government and charity lessen,

but self-confidence and satisfaction can increase, and there can be a greater inner peace in each individual and family, knowing that you are prepared to face and survive difficulties and trials that may arise," said Tanner.

All who are interested are invited to attend for part or all of the morning. Child care will be provided on site and there will be refreshments available. (PR)

## 'The Thorn Easter Experience' on Easter Sunday

This year at Saipan Community Church, the greatest story ever told comes to life with "The Thorn Easter Experience." Through realistic videos, live dramas, and beautiful music, attendees will experience the power and compassion of Jesus' life, the pain of His crucifixion, and the triumph of His resurrection.

"The church family is excited to present this beautiful Easter

presentation portraying the life of Christ, and His love for us so that we can know the depths of God's awesome love and amazing grace in each of our lives," said Greg Dickerman, senior pastor.

Service will be held on April 8 at 10:30am.

The Saipan Community Church is the first church on Saipan to present "The Thorn Easter Experience," a unique

Easter celebration that includes compelling videos, inspiring songs, beautiful graphics, and dramatic monologues adapted from "The Thorn Live," a spectacular stage presentation seen by nearly a million people over the last 14 years.

This is the first year the exclusive licensed content from "The Thorn Live" production has been available to churches to use in creating a worship ex-

perience unlike any other Easter service. The Saipan Community Church is excited to be able to invite everyone to attend this unique production and hopes many will come see Easter in a whole new way.

The Saipan Community Church is located in Susupe next to the park and across from the Mobil station. For more information, call 234-1888 or 285-6250. (PR)

## Guam bankers to take part in 'Teach Children to Save Day'



BANK OF GUAM  
Bank of Guam's Symon Madrazo at Bishop Baumgartner during last year's National Teach Children to Save Day.

**HAGATNA, Guam**—For the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row, Guam bankers will be the first in the United States to participate in National Teach Children to Save Day on April 24, 2012. Dozens of bankers from Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, Citibank, ANZ Bank, and the Association for Government Accountants are expected to take part on Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Invitations

have also been sent to members of the Guam Legislature.

So far, eight public and private schools (San Vicente, St. Anthony Catholic School, Bishop Baumgartner, DL Perez, Talofoto Elementary, Price Elementary, Machanao Elementary and Ulloa Elementary) have confirmed their participation, for over 1,100 students to be reached that day. (PR)

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday greetings go out to a very special woman in our lives, Gloria D. Reyes! Wishing you many more years to come! Greetings come from your kids and grandkids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Lotsa love to our little princess, Vinesha Juanet LG. Agulto, on your special day! May these moments of smiles and joy grow year after year! Here's wishing you a cute and cuddly 1st birthday. Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Erin, Vj, Grandma, Grandpa, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 16th birthday to Raymond Concepcion Teregeyo, Jr. (Me'Mong)! We love you son! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, sister Kiki, and the Concepcion and Teregeyo families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 28, 2001

### NMHC told to maximize credit line with MPLT

Representative William S. Torres is pressing the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation to take advantage of a multi-million dollar credit loan extension from the Marianas Public Land Trust. The additional MPLT funds provided to NMHC was part of a negotiated agreement by the two agencies and has been awaiting signing since February of this year. "Signing such an agreement with MPLT would immediately provide NMHC over \$3 million of a needed cash infusion to more adequately serve those low income clients of the housing agency," the lawmaker said.

### DPH to ask off-island patients to secure MRO authorization

Unless armed with treatment authorization from the Medical Referral Office, patients seeking off-island treatment will be obliged to pay upfront to get medical services from Hawaii-based hospitals. Without the treatment authorization to present before Queen's Medical Center, Straub Health and Clinic and St. Francis Clinic, CNMI patients seeking medical services will be charged as self-paid. Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez yesterday disclosed the required treatment authorization was one of the agreement reached with the Hawaii hospitals to prevent undue medical charges billed to the Medical Referral Office.

Mar. 28, 2003

### PIDB approves 3 CNMI loans

The Pacific Islands Development Bank Board of Directors has approved business loans from three CNMI applicants and a couple more from Palau and Yap, following the PIDB's quarterly meeting held on Saipan last Saturday. PIDB board member MaryLou S. Ada, representing the Northern Marianas, said yesterday that the approval of loans from the CNMI was a first since the PIDB's inception in 1989. Ada, also executive director of the Commonwealth Development Authority, however, declined to disclose the applicants' names and types of business loans pending the release of the approval letters from PIDB President Aren Palik.

### New NMI postmaster installed

Representatives from the cross-section of the island's community gathered at the United States Postal Service in Chalan Kanoa yesterday morning to witness the installation of George Diaz as the new CNMI Postmaster. Diaz, born and raised on Guam, rose from the ranks in the USPS-Guam since 1970 when he entered the service as a part time flex. Eleven months later, he became a regular employee and slowly climbed the ladder to eventually become the Commonwealth's postmaster. Diaz first served as a distribution clerk in the 1970s. He then became an acting supervisor in 1999, and customer supervisor in 2000. Diaz, 53, replaced retired postmaster John San Nicolas in the latter part of 2002. San Nicolas is now in Reno, Nevada.

Mar. 28, 2004

### Archipelagic management of ecosystem pushed

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council voted Friday to begin development of archipelagic fishery management plans that will address resource issues on an ecosystem basis. Under this approach, individual fishery management plans for bottom fish, precious coral, crustacean and coral reef ecosystems fishery management plans would be eliminated and these insular resources would be managed together under a single ecosystem management plan. These plans would be regionally based, with the Mariana Islands archipelago (Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands), the Hawaii archipelago (Main Hawaiian islands and the Northwestern Hawaiian islands and possibly Johnston Atoll), and the American Samoa archipelago comprising separate regions.

### CPA expenses soar 3 percent

The Commonwealth Ports Authority recorded a 3-percent increase in its operating expenses at its Airport Division during the first five months of fiscal year 2004. Based on the CPA FY2004 Airport Financial Highlights, the airport division-according to its revenue and expenses report-is still below the required revenue bond of 1.25 during the first five months of the five-month review. The Airport Division has recorded a 1.19-debt ratio compared to the needed 1.25 percent. The report, prepared and submitted by CPA Comptroller George Palican, said that the division had cumulative expenses of \$4.26 million during the October 2003-February 2004 review against the budgeted \$4.15 million.



# Island Snapshots



**SAIPAN VISITOR**

The *M/S Asuka II* dwarfs the Saipan seaport during its visit to the island on Monday. It brought in some 400 passengers, most of them Japanese retirees. The cruise ship, Japan's largest, left early Tuesday morning.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



CLARISSA V. DAVID

*M/S Asuka II* first purser Yukiko Shindo shows Saipan Seaport manager Mary Ann Lizama one of the lounges at Japan's largest cruise ship during a tour on Monday.



The view from The Bistro located at the 6th level or the Plaza Deck of *M/S Asuka II*.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Alcoholic beverages are not included in the rates paid by passengers on board the *M/S Asuka II*, Japan's largest cruise ship, which made its annual voyage to Saipan on Monday.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

A tour of one of the areas at the *M/S Asuka II* gives passengers a view of Saipan's waters.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Seaport manager Mary Ann Lizama and *M/S Asuka II* first purser Yukiko Shindo smile for the camera for a souvenir photo last March 26.



A man, left, looks on as another operates an excavator at a private land in Chalan Galaide yesterday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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## ‘Your skirt’s too tight’—real friends tell

By **GINA BARRECA**  
THE HARTFORD COURANT

**T**here are three things only your real friends can do: Tell you when your clothes don’t fit, tell you when you’re acting ridiculous, and help you celebrate a huge achievement.

Strangers can tell you if you have spinach in your teeth. Somebody you’ve never met before can help you grieve. It’s easier to offer an incidental observation or sincere sympathy than it is, for example, to offer authentic, enthusiastic admiration.

But only someone who’s known and loved you for a long time can cheer you on and mean it when you receive a significant promotion, drop three dress sizes or win big money on “Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?”

A stranger can indicate that you’ve got something in the corner of your eye through the universally recognized action of desperately rubbing the corner of her own eye until you, chimpanzee-like, mimic her action only to discover that you now have a flake of mascara the size of a tea bag smeared across the top of your cheekbone like an NFL running back.

But only a real pal can tell you that your new iridescent eye shadow makes you look not like Halle Berry but like Tim Curry in “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” only less subtle.

It’s not easy to be a friend.

Oh sure, you can hit the “accept” button on a social media site and pretend to be popular, but does that really mean you’d be able to identify the person you just “friended” in a lineup? If you could, would you offer to make that person’s bail? A real friend offers bail.

Would you recognize his or her voice over the telephone? Even more important, if you saw on your caller ID that it was this person phoning you, would you pick up or let it go directly to voice mail? Real friends pick up and don’t pretend not to know who it is.

Real friends say, “Oh, thank God it’s YOU,” and then admit who it is they are glad not to hear from (“The only time she ever calls is when she needs bail”).

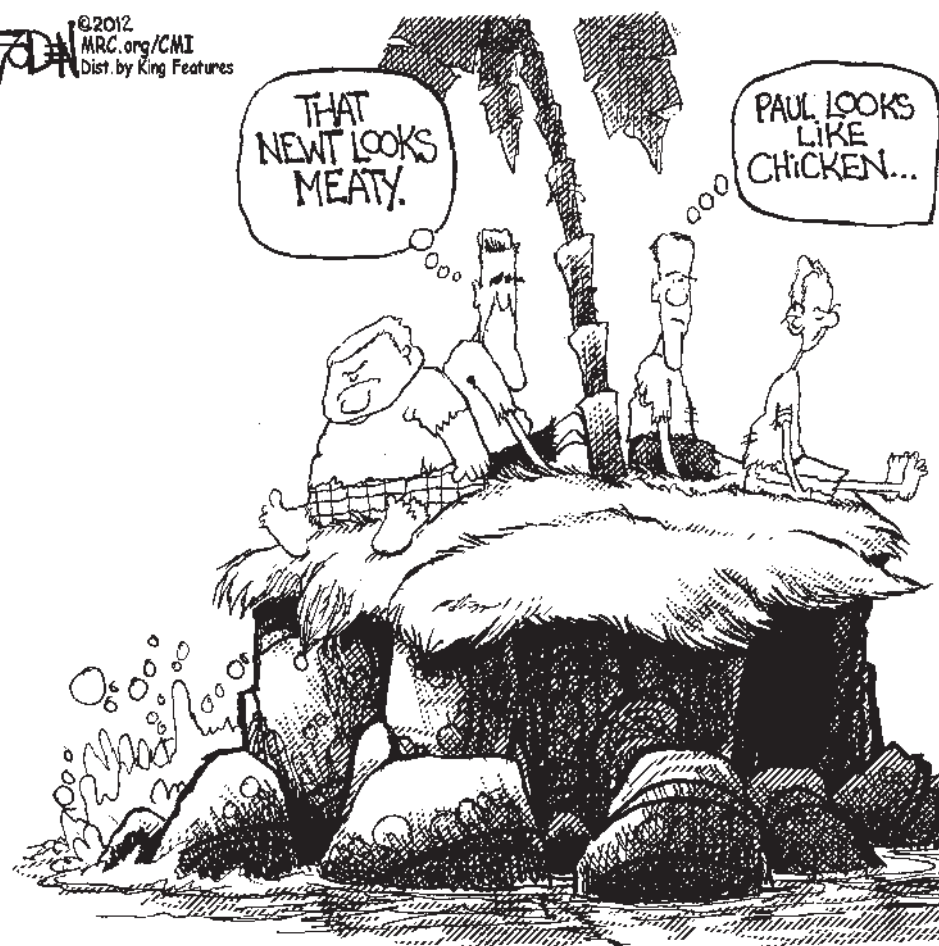
I know people claiming to have 1,236 friends who haven’t had an actual conversation with a living adult in eight years. You know the kind I mean: the ones having five-second phone calls while texting, while waving to somebody while gesturing to you to “hold on, just one sec.” You, meanwhile, are attempting to back away as quickly as possible from this carnival of self-aggrandizement. Sometimes they’ll step on the cuff of your pants to keep you in place.

But what’s really scary is when these people are pushing strollers. There’s some little tyke in there wearing a fabulous costume, which would be great except the kid hasn’t had to focus on a human face since the last time a family photograph was taken. Nobody speaks to him directly; his parents are always on the phone. They won’t make eye contact with their offspring until they’re all in court being asked to stand beside him when the judge says, “Will the defendant please rise?”

Look: Even your dog knows when you’re not paying proper attention—making eye contact and friendly conversation (“Lulu, girl, check out that sparrow! That sparrow must weigh 45 pounds, huh, Lulu? How can something like that get liftoff?”) Notice how the dog looks back, shaking her head as if to say, “Yeah, that sparrow’s built like a Buick.” You’ve just had a little moment of

**See YOUR on next page**

7DA

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CANNIBALISM AND “THE HUNGER GAMES.”

## The Journey

**T**he metaphor is as old as human consciousness though we were introduced to it through our religious heritage, first with the elderly nomadic Abram inexplicably waking up to the hope of siring a people as chronicled in the *Torah*, with its genesis co-opted by Christians to map the journey from beginning to end, enshrining time into human history.

Chaucer got Middle English into storytelling in *The Canterbury Tales* by the 14th century CE and we have latched on to the format ever since as a form of telling the truth.

The Hans’ insularity busted out West in the 16th century when the Buddhist Wu Cheng’en told of Xuanzang’s journey to India to retrieve some Sutras. The Sino mindset at the time, headed toward monotonous and disastrous homogeneity, got a shot of diversity by the wild adventures of a fallen shaved head and his equally fallen four super guides in *The Journey to the West*, or more popularly, *The Monkey King*.

Jules Verne’s hidden paradigm shifting in his *Voyage au Centre de la Terre* in 1864, a descent to the center of the planet, is often noted more as an early sci-fi rather than its revolutionary assault on the religious orthodoxy of the time that based earth science on the biblical narrative of the Garden of Eden. Geology presented a challenge to Church ecclesiology in the same way as Darwin’s 1843 *Origin of the Specie* made evolutionary biology an alternative image to creationist mythologies.

The story of the *Wonderful Wizard of Oz* came out at the turn of the 20th century, and with the economic depression of 1929, an inward looking America emerged. The German Hermann Hesse in 1932 picked up on the European fascination with Eastern mysticism in his *Journey to the East*, in which the internal struggle of the “protagonists” HH and Leo later captured the existentialist imagination of our post-WWI generation.

Hesse’s parade of Western civilizations’ notables got us riveted to our mental hammocks. His telling keeps company with Plato the dialogical philosopher with echoes of earlier math whiz Pythagoras of the theorem-fame. Mozart the classical composer chimes in with the colors of artist Paul Klee while Cervantes’ alter ego *Don Quixote* battles his windmills. Serialized *Tristram Sandry* meets up with modern poet Baudelaire and we are impressed with the company Hesse keeps.

Dubbed a musical fantasy with less depth but blaring the same message, Dorothy in her ruby shoes in the 1939 movie version of the *Wizard of Oz* novel (silver shoes in the novel) realized that the whirlwind journey with Toto never really left Kansas.

In fact, told stories in the last one thousand years was the subject of Joseph Campbell’s 1949 seminal non-fiction work on comparative mythology in the *Hero of a Thousand Faces*. The monomyth “hero” had similar features across time, and the democratization of the function would find lyrics in Mariah Carey’s *Hero*. S/he may be

By **JAIME VERGARA**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



found in everyone, if we bother to look inside.

The point of a journey, our mystics now cry, is to awaken at the place where one started realizing that the place may be familiar but one can never really return home ever again. The journey in fact is the transformation that happens within.

Why would we want to belabor this point in a season of March’s Madness when one’s life journey is measured in terms of 20 minutes of fame should one’s team makes the final four on one’s efforts, or, on the last second theatrics of a 3-point hoop before the buzzer?

Projecting our concern to the literature of the civilization that shaped us, or to the current frenzy of fame and infamy from which we cannot escape as the Final Four weekend of collegiate basketball finally arrives, is certainly a roundabout way of raising how the 75K some residents of the CNMI actually view their journey in life?

Dichotomies, especially sharply defined ones, are always suspect, and though there is conceptual accuracy to the notion that the Western mind is led by the questions of “when” (history) and “why” (philosophy), and the Eastern brain hums to the role of “who” (socio-psych) and their location “where” (like my wealthy real estate acquaintances), it does not inform us why the folks up Capital Hill play with rules and regulations like they do, or why the robed justices decide where the wind needs to blow, nor why parents send their children to war.

It is, nevertheless, our image of our journey that determines our behavior. One who comes out of life’s gate a *dejado* (handicapped) like those of Augustine’s original-sin-Christianity, will act like one. With the prominence of the CNMI Hispanic culture of death where Christ forever remains crucified, sanctifying penance and martyrdom, conjugated to the Midwest Easter lily’d blond-haired blue-eyed Jesus swiftly ascended to the clouded land of an Other World, giving the self-righteous trigger-happy grunts rationale to nuke the bejeesus out of places like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran to usher Armageddon, and we sense that the object lessons reflecting the reality factor of the human journey is missing all together in our lives. Abram joyfully went under his mound as Abraham of the Chosen Ones, but we suspect he still turns over in his grave.

Lent reveals the dark night of the soul, a good time to review once more the trajectory of our lives. *Quo Vadis?*



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Is the Chamorro language dead?

**L**ike dry leaf bouncing erratically in the open waters, someday it would soak and sink to the bottom of the sea, never to be seen again. Sadly, this is how I see the demise of our native tongue. Up ahead, our children would see the loss of something intrinsically valuable as it recedes with the tide of neglect, so mutilated by the demands of modernity.

Sure, it's sad watching a language disappear with each new generation that loses most of their native tongue. But like Latin, the native Chamorro language will slowly fade into the ash heap of history. We may be able to speak it, but the requisite scaffold it needs so it is used in perpetuity has slowly faded into oblivion. Its fading echo would be the only relic left behind for the indigenous people of these isles. We would only learn of its intrinsic traditional value when it's gone.

Understandably, folks have related how hard it is to read in their lingo. Indeed, it is humiliating! But many of us are victims of an educational system that teaches English as we move from grammar to high school. We developed literacy in English while we devolve into illiteracy in our own native tongue. It's nobody's fault. But look at the long-term effects of illiteracy in our own language. It's our last hope to perpetuating our peoplehood, isn't it?

I learned my Chamorro in the first and second grades. Learning the written aspect of it never waned in spite of the instructional discontinuation. I have struggled during the initial years of penning my thoughts to ensure some appreciable measure of being conversant on issues, written with clarity. It became a lot easier with constant writing exercises through the years. It felt good, though I still refuse to use the orthography from Guam. It isn't representative of the Chamorro taught then nor is it anywhere near what the learned folks have shared and conveyed to us before moving on.

The decision to bury my written column in the vernacular is founded in the assessment that hardly anybody reads Chamorro these days. Specifically, I quiz if I've done justice in the use of the written Chamorro or did I exact the complete opposite—discouraged more than encouraged its use. It seems an issue often treated with the adage, "After all is said and done, a lot more is said than

done." And unless there's strong and wide support of encouragement to continue, it ends on the last week of April.

It is this sad assessment plus 40 years of walking up to the loneliest mound on earth that hastened ending this journey this year. I will prepare an obituary for it. It seems a useless journey I liken to the narrowing of the arteries. Eventually, it loses its use and function. But I think I've conquered my dream of writing in my vernacular. Thank God it came with the love of writing and tons of inspiration. To write successfully is to write. Proficiency comes with the routine and critical review or reasoning. Nothing else! That I will end my written Chamorro will not change, in any form or fashion, my being Chamorro.

Throughout the period, I've returned, time and again, to expressing my understanding of indigenous cultural traditions. It includes realistic takes on the contemporary relationship between indigenous land and culture we brave as mouthwash though often disoriented. I even ventured questioning since when did Chamorros have a chant or was the use of hula truly indigenous and inherently part of traditional Chamorro dance or isn't this basically Polynesian? Why not inject the Spanish influence? Why dance something that is far removed from indigenous culture? Adaptation doesn't represent our true cultural tradition even if it's called "contemporary."

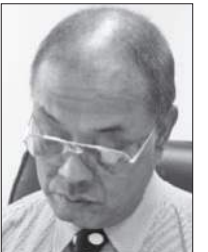
In brief form, do we fabricate cultural arts or do we defer and premise it on history? Why the fabrication? Isn't this a commercial exploitation of perceived cultural art that was never a part of indigenous or traditional history? Did we have Chamorro warriors blowing conch before engaging the enemy? Weren't they more into hiding to surprise them? But the arts and indigenous medicine are components of the overall cultural traditions of these isles. Its revival is vital to recapturing the essence of our people and I tip my hat to the hardworking crew.

Indeed, I've also openly expressed my nationalistic sentiments about these isles and its people. I wasn't ready to surrender sovereignty easily, but 78 percent of our people voted—through a plebiscite—in favor of an agreement establishing a permanent relationship with the U.S.

Interesting the quirk of fate: the very issues I feared then have

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**  
*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*



begun showing their ugly fangs in the expressions we read or hear about today among some of our indigenous people. Be that as it may, we're a bit too late Amy, right? So what paradigms must we employ revisiting and rebuilding a dysfunctional relationship with the U.S.? Do we cater to our nationalistic aspirations or the reality of now? The former looks like a long journey, isn't it?

Down the stretch, we could expect returning scholars to begin scribbling the history of these isles that would be presented from an indigenous' perspective. In short, it's the writing of our history by our very own about "Our Story." They'd also begin scribbling island literature in the vernacular for wider use throughout public schools. This revolution has begun already with the First Festival of Pacific Arts. It would revive the pride of islanders in this part of the world, a movement that will strengthen as we pull ourselves out of neo-colonialism into greater self-government. It's a long process that will require resolve, strength, conviction, and resilience to show that we too are capable of handling our own sovereign and domestic affairs. And a lot rides on how well we strengthen our democratic institutions today.

There are salient issues that come to mind, though we conveniently skirt pondering our future with any sense of purpose. As you sift through fact and fiction of the current state of affairs, have you any idea how we end up crashing all over the place? Aren't you also a player in the deepening mess? Do we step up to the plate so we can be counted as real agents of change for the better? Like I've said before, it's all in the palm of your hands and the entire nine yards begins with the self. *Biba Chamorro Lingo!*

## ISLAND VIEWS

*Editor's Note: The following essay and mini-essays are written by the students of Mrs. G. C. Borja-Robinson's writing classes at the Northern Marianas College. The views expressed are solely those of the students.*

### Stress

By YUN HEE LEE

How do you manage your stress? Controlling stress is related to our health because illness will develop if we do not respond to stress in healthful and constructive ways. People can be grouped by how they react to stress. The first group releases its stress outwardly with anger. The second group holds its stress internally and expresses nothing. The last group manages its stress in healthful and constructive ways.

People in the first group release their stress by reacting with anger to people near them. They cannot control their stress. They do not care about other people near them when they release their stress. They think their feelings are more important than the people in their surroundings. Other family members, co-workers, or friends may receive the negative reaction(s) from these stressed people. After they release their stress with angry outbursts to those around them, they will feel bad and still feel stress. Their tendency to release stress with anger stems from their inability to regulate their stress; their stress may escalate to violence. Their expression of stress with anger often brings negative results, and those results may worsen the stress.

People in the second group withhold their stress and express nothing. Other people surrounding them may feel better than those around the first group. However, if these stressed people do not resolve their stress and let it simmer inside them, bigger problems

may result. Those persons may develop mental or physical illnesses. Withholding stress is not the answer to stress control. It can be more dangerous than stress expressed by the other two groups.

The last group is able to manage its stress in healthful and constructive ways. They do not release their stress with anger. They also do not withhold their stress internally. They try to resolve their stress in healthful and constructive ways. They may rest, listen to music, walk, play sports, do yoga, or talk through their problems with trusted family members or friends. By doing these things, they can reduce their stress and get new energy for tomorrow.

We often encounter stressful situations in our daily lives, so we must know how to manage stress. We can learn how to control it so that it does not control us. Which group do you belong to? Instead of expressing anger, find beneficial ways to reduce your stress. Doing so will help you maintain a healthy and happy life.

### The United States of America

By HOJIN WOO

Have you ever visited the United States? The U.S. is the best country in the world. If I had the opportunity to travel, I would visit the U.S. The first place my family and I would visit is the White House in Washington D.C., where the President lives. We would also visit Hollywood and meet famous actors and actresses. After that, we would visit Las Vegas and Disneyland. I want my children to see Disneyland in particular, because I want them to experience something new. I also want my family to visit New York, Los Angeles, Boston, and other big cities in America. By visiting these cities, we will learn more about the U.S. Someday I hope our dreams will come true.

your best friends who are your diamonds. It's your best friends who are supremely resilient, made under pressure and of astonishing value. They're everlasting; they can cut glass if they need to.

And just as there's no such thing as a fake diamond—it's either real or it isn't—there's no such thing as a fake friend. Fake ones fall off when you get into hot water.

Hold your friends close. Talk to them, in person if possible, and

### Shin-Osaka

By HAN JEON

Do you know where Shin-Osaka is in Japan? Shin-Osaka was my first overseas destination. It is near Osaka. I used to live in Shin-Osaka from 1990 to 1994. During my stay there, I attended a language school and a junior college. So I have a lot of memories of Shin-Osaka. That is why I want to visit it again if I had the opportunity. Besides attending school in Shin-Osaka, I had a part-time job. I went shopping at many places, ate in various restaurants, and went to public baths everyday. I also traveled to other cities in Japan. In 1994, I left Shin-Osaka. I miss it even today. There are many cities and countries to see, but it is Shin-Osaka that I want to visit. It probably has changed much since I lived there. I have a lot of pleasant memories of Shin-Osaka.

### My Dream

By YUNKYUNG LEE

Have you ever thought how your life would be when you are older? Everyone desires a quiet, peaceful life. However, many modern people today do not have a calm life because they are too busy. In my spare time I like to do ceramics and raise plants, but I live in an apartment in Korea. So I dream of having a house someday with a yard for my plants and space for my ceramics. At my house I will water my plants and do ceramics while listening to calm music. I will invite my friends to my house and drink tea with them. Such a life would make me very happy. Small joys every day make me happy. I desire a peaceful and happy future. Today I am a busy mother and a college student. So I do not have much spare time, but someday I will.

cheer them on. Real friends are a better—and kinder—reflection of you than any mirror.

*Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her website at <http://www.ginabarreca.com>.*

## YOUR

From Page 10

interspecies connection.






As I always say, Lorelei Lee got it wrong in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes": It's not that diamonds are a girl's best friend, but it's



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79

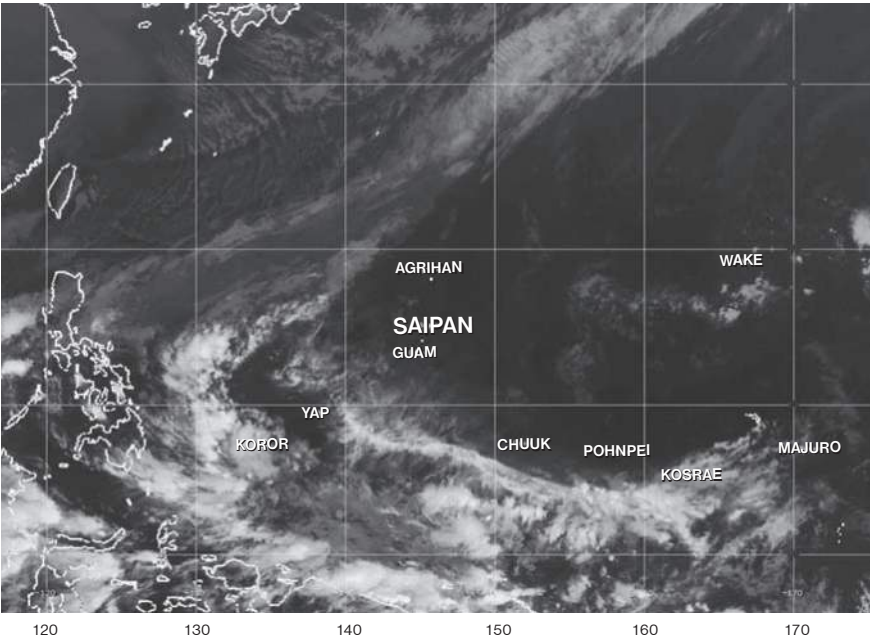
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 61
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 41
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 66
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 69
London	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 41
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 51
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 66
New York	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 48
Osaka	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 41
Paris	Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 42
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 41
Rome	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 48
Salem	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 45
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 51
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 36
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 41
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 75 ▼ 56

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:27 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
6:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
11:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	
6:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from near Minami Tori Shima at 25N155E across the far northern CNMI to beyond 130E at 13N. Cloudiness and widespread rain are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A monsoon trough extends east-southeastward from 6N130E to south of Kosrae at EQ162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror between the equator and 7N from 130E to 139E and south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 5N from 150E to 167E. An upper-level low centered near 16N168E is triggering a few thunderstorms east of Wake Island between 15N and 20N from 168E to 176E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:48 AM	11:03 PM
Thursday	10:36 AM	11:52 PM
Friday	11:27 AM	
Saturday	12:19 PM	12:40 AM
Sunday	1:12 PM	1:27 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

### PICTURES

- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan  
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



Business

Harvard emails show Zuckerberg's business side

NEW YORK (AP)—Emails from Mark Zuckerberg's Harvard days show the dropout-turned-Facebook CEO as a young entrepreneur losing patience with a client's delayed payments.

"I contracted out my services for money, and even though I seem to continually be providing services, I don't seem to be receiving money from you guys," he wrote on Sunday, January 25, 2004, according to court documents filed on Monday by Facebook's lawyers. The deal, writes Zuckerberg, was for \$18,000, plus a side project for \$1,500. He was still owed \$10,000. Zuckerberg founded Facebook the following month.

The client, Paul Ceglia, sued Zuckerberg in 2010, claiming that a contract he signed in 2003 entitled him to a 50 percent ownership stake in Facebook. If Facebook's upcoming initial public offering goes as expected, that could amount to as much as \$50 billion. Facebook's lawyers are seeking to dismiss the suit. They say the contract is a fake.

Facebook included email exchanges between Ceglia, his associates and Zuckerberg in court documents filed in a U.S. District Court in Buffalo, New York on Monday. Facebook said the



This Oct. 15, 2011 file photo shows Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg during a meeting in San Francisco. Attorneys for Facebook on Monday, March 26, 2012 sought the dismissal of what they called an "opportunistic and fraudulent" lawsuit by a New York man claiming half-ownership of the social networking site.

roughly 300 emails it obtained from Harvard's servers relating to the case make no mention of Facebook.

Instead, the emails center on a database company called Street-

Fax that never took off. The two traded messages on technical specifications of the website that Ceglia had hired Zuckerberg to work on, and payments. The emails show a range of ex-

changes between Zuckerberg and Ceglia, which were sometimes terse and at other times lengthy and detailed.

"I will do my best to try to raise the cash needed to pay the

amount requested though I honestly cannot guarantee it," wrote Ceglia on Feb. 22, 2004 according to the filing.

A day earlier, Zuckerberg wrote that he did not think Ceg-

lia would pay him "at any point in the near future."

In addition to losing patience with his late payments, Zuckerberg tells Ceglia's colleague in one email that StreetFax is not a very high priority for him, given that there are "many other things I'd like to, and have started to, work on."

"I am at a school surrounded by some of the smartest people in the world, cultivating ideas and constantly coming up with projects to work on," he wrote in January 2004, just days before launching "Thefacebook," as it was then called. "The last thing I need right now is someone calling me twice a day asking if I've uploaded some small changes to a site that I made eight months ago ... My time is valuable, and seems better spent on things that I know, or at least can reasonably expect, will produce some sort of gratification in the near future."

The last email, from May 2004, shows the two men may have worked out a payment plan, where Ceglia would send \$500 a month until his bill was paid in full. It's not clear if the payments were actually made.

Ceglia's lawyers said that Ceglia deserves his day in court where a jury will decide the ownership dispute.

'Pink slime' maker suspends some plant operations

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—The maker of "pink slime" suspended operations Monday at all but one plant where the beef ingredient is made, acknowledging recent public uproar over the product has cost the company business.

Craig Letch, director of food quality and assurance for Beef Products Inc., declined to discuss financial details but said business has taken a "substantial" hit since social media exploded with worry over the ammonia-treated filler and an online petition seeking its ouster from schools drew hundreds of thousands of supporters. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has decided school districts may stop using it, and some retail chains have pulled products containing it from their shelves.

Federal regulators say the product, which has been used for years and is known in the

industry as "lean, finely textured beef," meets food safety standards. But critics call the product an unappetizing example of industrialized food production.

Beef Products will suspend operations at plants in Amarillo, Texas; Garden City, Kan.; and Waterloo, Iowa, Letch said. About 200 employees at each of the three plants will get full salary and benefits for 60 days during the suspension. The company's plant at its Dakota Dunes, S.D., headquarters will continue operations.

The company, meanwhile, will develop a strategy for rebuilding business and addressing what Letch called misconceptions about the beef the company makes.

"We feel like when people can start to understand the truth and reality then our business will come back," he said. "It's 100 percent beef."

Justices moving to heart of health care overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP)—As demonstrations swirled outside, Supreme Court justices signaled on Monday they are ready to confront without delay the keep-or-kill questions at the heart of challenges to President Barack Obama's historic health care overhaul. Virtually every American will be affected by the outcome, due this summer in the heat of the election campaign.

On the first of three days of arguments—the longest in decades—none of the justices appeared to embrace the contention that it was too soon for a decision.

Outside the packed courtroom, marching and singing demonstrators on both sides—including doctors in white coats, a Republican presidential candidate and even a brass quartet—voiced their eagerness for the court to either uphold or throw out the largest expansion in the nation's social safety net since Medicare was enacted in 1965.

Tuesday's arguments will focus on the heart of the case, the provision that aims to extend medical insurance to 30 million more Americans by requiring everyone to carry insurance or pay a penalty.

A decision is expected by late June as Obama fights for reelection. All of his Republican challengers oppose the law and promise its repeal if the high court hasn't struck it down in the meantime.

On Monday, the justices took on the question of whether an obscure tax law could derail the case.

Audio of the day's argument can be found at: <http://apne.ws/H8YR1x>

The 19th century law bars tax disputes from being heard in the courts before the taxes have been paid.

Under the new health care

law, Americans who don't purchase health insurance would have to report that omission on their tax returns for 2014 and would pay a penalty along with federal income tax on returns due by April 2015. Among the issues facing the court is whether that penalty is a tax.

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr., defending the health law, urged the court to focus on what he called "the issues of great moment" at the heart of the case. The 26 states and a small business group challenging the law also want the court to go ahead and decide on its constitutionality without delay.

Frosty night threatens early-budding fruit crops

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Anxious farmers in fruit-growing regions of the Great Lakes, Northeast and even parts of the South kept misters, smudge pots and helicopters in their arsenals as a cold front approached from Canada, threatening to freeze trees and vines overnight that had budded early

amid record-setting warmth.

At risk are this season's harvests of wine grapes, apples, apricots, cherries, pears, peaches and possibly strawberries. If the freeze causes damage, consumers would likely notice it on a regional scale at farm stands, farmers' markets and other local outlets.

Cameron Hosmer was counting on a helicopter to mix warmer air with the cold at ground level Tuesday morning at his 60-acre vineyard in New York's Finger Lakes region. He worried most about his French-American hybrid grape De Chaunac, which are farthest along with half-inch buds, but noted he and other

growers were at nature's mercy.

"We're not in charge," he said. "We're guests here. You're going to have to be prepared for disappointments."

The National Weather Service has issued hard freeze and frost warnings and watches in a swath from the central Great Lakes to the East Coast.

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

13,241.63

+160.90

+1.23%

S&P

1,416.51

+19.40

+1.39%

NASDAQ

3,122.57

+54.65

+1.78%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9539
British Pound	0.6293
Canadian Dollar	0.9960
Chinese Yuan	6.3259
Euro	0.7528

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7682
Indian Rupee	52.5210
Indonesian Rupiah	9,242.1
Japanese Yen	82.7130
Malaysian Ringgit	3.0973
New Zealand Dollar	1.2216

Philippine Peso	43.3651
Singapore Dollar	1.2605
South Korean Won	1,114.5
Swiss Franc	0.9074
Taiwan Dollar	29.6736
Thailand Baht	30.7977



# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### At least 5 homes destroyed by Colorado wildfire

**CONIFER, Colo. (AP)**—A fast-moving wildfire destroyed at least five houses in the mountains west of Denver on Monday and burned across more than 4 1/2 square miles amid dry, windy weather. “We’re in a defensive mode, structure protection only,” Jefferson County Sheriff’s spokeswoman Jacki Kelley said. “We’re not really fighting the fire right now.” Kelley said authorities don’t know how many houses were lost but said it was at least five and probably more than 10. Authorities ordered residents of more than 900 homes to evacuate.

### 2 NYPD officers forced to quit over 2006 shooting

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Two New York Police Department detectives involved in the 2006 shooting death of an unarmed man after his bachelor party have been forced to resign. Marc Cooper and Michael Oliver quit the NYPD on Monday. Their resignations resolved disciplinary charges stemming from the slaying of Sean Bell. They’ll still get their pensions. The police department fired a third detective, Giscard Isnora (jes-KARD’ ihs-NOR’-uh), on Friday after he lost his administrative case. A lieutenant is expected to resign on Tuesday. The detectives shot and killed Bell and injured two friends following an altercation outside a Queens strip club where he had his bachelor party. Isnora claimed he opened fire first because he thought the men were trying to retrieve a gun.

### Indian tribe worries pipeline will disturb graves

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)**—As President Barack Obama pushes to fast-track an oil pipeline from Oklahoma south to the Gulf Coast, an American Indian tribe that calls the oil hub home worries the route might disrupt sacred sites holding the unmarked graves of their ancestors. Sac and Fox Nation Chief George Thurman plans to voice his concerns this week in Washington. He said he fears workers placing the 485-mile Keystone XL pipeline that would run from Cushing to refineries on Texas’ Gulf Coast could disturb holy ground without consideration of the tribe. He and another tribe member say the pipeline’s route travels through areas where unmarked graves are likely buried. “We’ve been here 171 years,” said Sandra Massey, the Sac and Fox Nation’s historic preservation officer. “We’ve been living and dying here. We are all over.”

## Fight claims, pot put Fla. teen’s side on defense

**SANFORD, Fla. (AP)**—The family and supporters of slain Florida teenager Trayvon Martin found themselves on the defensive Monday following revelations he had been suspended for marijuana before he was shot to death by a neighborhood watch volunteer. Police also confirmed a report that the watchman claimed Martin was the aggressor, punching him in the nose and smacking his head on a sidewalk.

Martin, 17, was suspended by Miami-Dade County schools because traces of marijuana were found in a plastic baggie in his book bag, family spokesman Ryan Julison said. Martin was serving the suspension when he was shot Feb. 26 by George Zimmerman, who was patrolling the neighborhood that Martin was visiting with his father.

Martin’s mother, Sybrina Fulton, and family attorneys blamed police for leaking the information about the marijuana and Zimmerman’s claim about the attack to the news media in an effort to demonize the teenager.

“They killed my son and now they’re trying to kill his reputation,” Fulton told reporters.

The Sanford Police Department insisted there was no authorized release of the new information but acknowledged there may have been a leak. City Manager Norton Bonaparte Jr. said it would be investigated and the person responsible could be fired.

### Officials: White House offers to curtail drones

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—In a bid to save the CIA’s drone campaign against al-Qaida in Pakistan, US officials offered key concessions to Pakistan’s spy chief that included advance notice and limits on the types of targets. But the offers were flatly rejected, leaving US-Pakistani relations strained as President Barack Obama prepares to meet Tuesday with Pakistan’s prime minister.

CIA Director David Petraeus, who met with Pakistan’s then-spy chief, Lt. Gen. Ahmed Shuja Pasha at a meeting in London in January, offered to give Pakistan advance notice of future CIA drone strikes against targets on its territory in a bid to keep Pakistan from blocking the strikes—arguably one of the most potent U.S. tools against al-Qaida.

The CIA chief also offered to apply new limits on the types of targets hit, said a senior U.S. intelligence official briefed on the meetings. No longer would large groups of armed men rate near-automatic action, as they had in the past—one of the so-called “signature” strikes, where CIA targeters deemed certain groups and behavior as clearly indicative of militant activity.

Pasha said then what Pakistani officials and its parliament have repeated in recent days: that Pakistan will no longer brook independent U.S. action on its territory by CIA drones, two Pakistani offi-



Makayla Lane, 9, of East Walnut Hills, joins demonstrators during a march in support of Trayvon Martin, a 17-year old black youth shot and killed on the night of Feb. 26 in Sanford, Fla. by a neighborhood watchman, in downtown Cincinnati Monday March 26, 2012.

sponsible could be fired.

Martin family attorney Benjamin Crump said the link between the youth and marijuana should have no bearing on the probe into his shooting death. State and federal agencies are investigating, with a grand jury set to convene April 10.

“If he and his friends experimented with marijuana, that is completely irrelevant,” Crump said. “What does it have to do with killing their son?”

that included ceasing all U.S. drone strikes as part of what Pakistani politicians call a “total reset” in its relationship. Pakistan’s parliament last week demanded cessation of all unilateral U.S. actions including the drone strikes.

Pasha went further, saying Pakistan’s intelligence service would no longer carry out joint raids with U.S. counterterrorist teams inside its country, as it had in the past. Instead, Pakistan would demand that the U.S. hand over the intelligence, so its forces could pursue targets on their own in urban areas, or send the Pakistani army or jets to attack the targets in the tribal areas, explained a senior Pakistani official.

The breakdown in U.S.-Pakistani relations follows a series of incidents throughout 2011 that have marred trust—from a CIA security officer who shot dead two alleged Pakistani assailants, to the U.S. Navy SEAL raid that killed Osama bin Laden in May, to the border incident where U.S. forces returned fire they believed came from a Pakistani border post, killing 24 Pakistani troops. The diplomatic fallout has led to the ejection of U.S. military trainers who’d worked closely with Pakistani counter-insurgent forces, slowed CIA drone strikes, and almost halted the once-common joint raids and investigations by Pakistan’s intelligence service together with the CIA and FBI.

Pasha’s pronouncements were in line with the Pakistani parliament’s demands issued last week

The state Department of Juvenile Justice confirmed Monday that Martin does not have a juvenile offender record. The information came after a public records request by The Associated Press.

Zimmerman, 28, claimed he shot Martin in self-defense and has not been arrested. Because Martin was black and Zimmerman has a white father and Hispanic mother, the case has become a racial flashpoint that has civil rights leaders and oth-

ers leading a series of protests in Sanford and around the country.

Meanwhile, the Orlando Sentinel reported that Zimmerman told police he lost Martin in the neighborhood he regularly patrolled and was walking back to his vehicle when the youth approached him from behind. The two exchanged words, Zimmerman said, and Martin then punched him in the nose, jumped on top of him and began banging his head on a sidewalk.

America’s 43 executions in 2011 ranked it fifth in the world in capital punishment, the rights group said in its annual review of worldwide death penalty trends. U.S. executions were down from 46 a year earlier.

“If you look at the company we’re in globally, it’s not the company we want to be in: China, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq,” Suzanne Nossel, executive director of Amnesty International USA, told The Associated Press.

The United States seems deeply divided on the issue. Texas Gov. Rick Perry was cheered at a Republican presidential candidates’ debate last September when he defended his signature on 234 execution warrants over more than 10 years as being the “ultimate justice.” Just weeks later, young people rallied in person and online to protest the execution of Troy Davis in Georgia for the 1991 murder of a police officer. In the intervening years, key witnesses

for the prosecution had recanted or changed their stories.

“I think the debate on the issue may be nearing a tipping point in this country,” Nossel said. “I think we’re seeing momentum at the state level, in the direction of waning support for the death penalty.”

## Amnesty: US ranks 5th on global execution scale

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The United States was the only Western democracy that executed prisoners last year, even as an increasing number of U.S. states are moving to abolish the death penalty, Amnesty International announced Monday.

Illinois banned the death penalty last year, and Oregon adopted a moratorium on executions. Maryland and Connecticut are close to banning executions, Amnesty said. And more than 800,000 Californians signed petitions to put a referendum on the state ballot in November that would abolish the death penalty.

However, 34 U.S. states have the death penalty. Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, which tracks U.S. trends, told the AP that last year 78 prisoners received death sentences, down from an average of more than 300 annually a few years ago. “Executions peaked in 1999 at 98,” he added. “By all measures, the death penalty is on the defensive.”

Dieter attributed much of the decline to the introduction of DNA testing, which has exposed some mistaken convictions. Zimmerman said he began crying for help; Martin’s family thinks it was their son who was crying out. Witness accounts differ and 911 tapes in which the voices are heard are not clear.

The Sanford police statement said the newspaper story was “consistent” with evidence turned over to prosecutors.

Earlier, city officials named a 23-year veteran of the Sanford police department as acting chief. The appointment of Capt. Darren Scott, who is African-American, came days after Chief Bill Lee, who is white, temporarily stepped down as the agency endured withering criticism over its handling of the case.

“I know each one of you—and everyone watching—would like to have a quick, positive resolution to this recent event,” Scott told reporters. “However, I must say we have a system in place, a legal system. It may not be perfect but it’s the only one we have. I urge everyone to let the system take its course.”

The Sanford City Commission held its first meeting Monday since giving Lee a no confidence vote, which led to his ouster. Martin’s parents both addressed the panel, urging them to take steps to arrest Zimmerman. More than 500 people crowded into the meeting, which was moved from City Hall to the Sanford Civil Center.



# Asia

## US, China, SKorea urge nations to lock down nukes

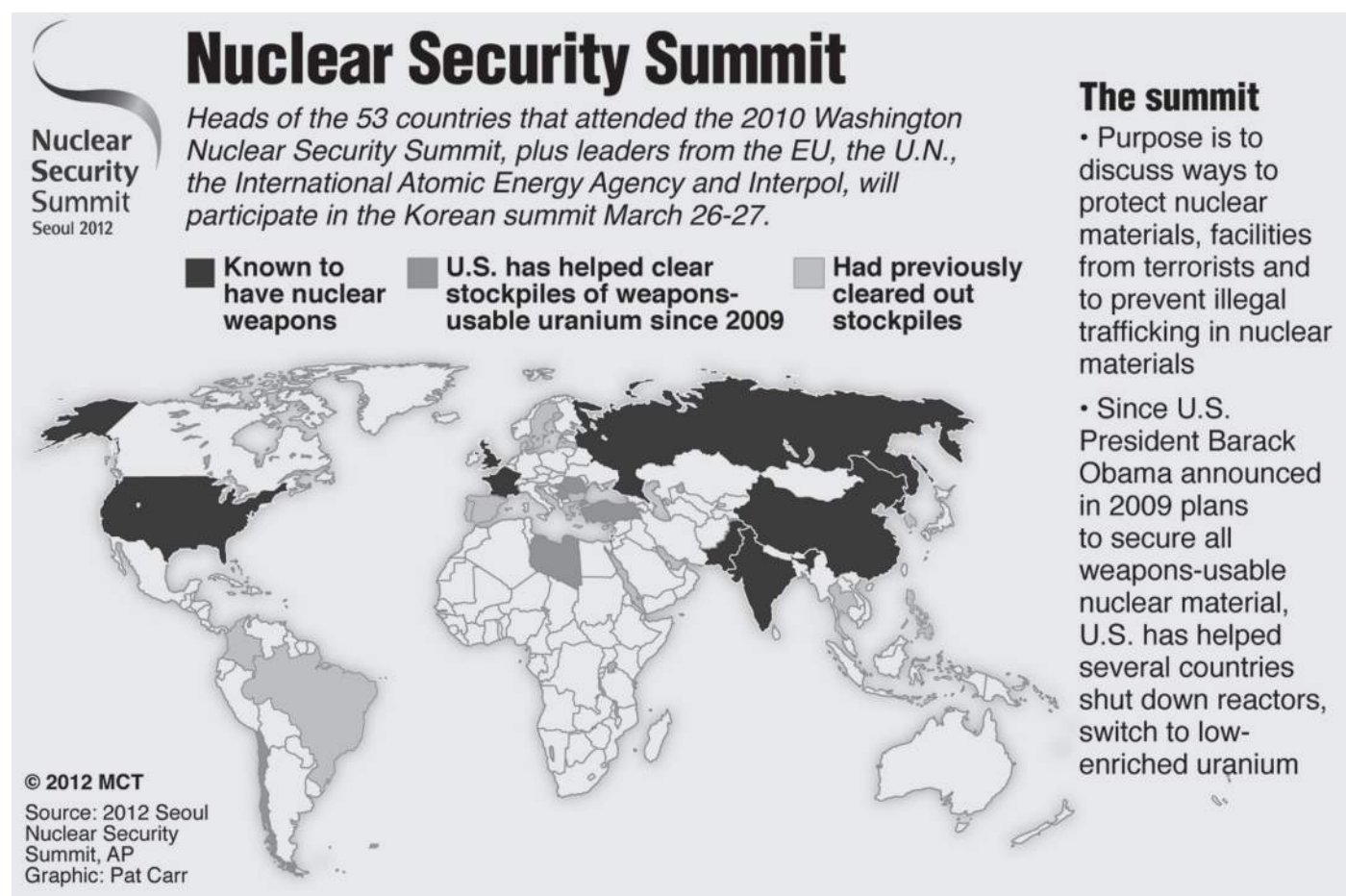
**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—The leaders of South Korea, the United States and China issued stark warnings Tuesday about the threat of nuclear terrorism during the final day of a nuclear summit that has so far been upstaged by North Korea's long-range rocket launch plans.

Nearly 60 leaders have gathered for the two-day conference meant to find ways to keep terrorists from detonating an atomic weapon in a major city. The leaders were to release a communique Tuesday about their efforts to lock down the world's supply of nuclear material by 2014.

Much of the drama, however, has centered on North Korea's stated plans to launch a satellite on a long-range rocket around the April 15 celebration of the birthday of North Korean founder Kim Il Sung.

President Barack Obama and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak on Monday pressured China, Pyongyang's main ally and economic supporter, to use its leverage to persuade the North to back away from the launch.

Although North Korea wasn't mentioned in opening summit comments Tuesday by China, the U.S. and South Korea, the launch was still a major point of discussion in leaders' meetings on the sidelines. Lee and Ital-



ian Premier Mario Monti met Tuesday and urged North Korea to cancel its launch plans, Lee's office said.

In his opening comments, Chinese President Hu Jintao called for the creation of "an international environment conducive to boosting nuclear security."

"We should commit to eliminating nuclear proliferation and the roots of nuclear terrorism," Hu said.

Obama urged leaders to secure nuclear material to prevent terrorists from killing hundreds of thousands of people.

Lee said nuclear proliferation and terrorism "are becoming

grave threats" to international peace. "There is no border in terrorism," he said.

North Korea's surprise announcement 11 days ago of a rocket launch came shortly after Pyongyang and Washington settled an aid-for-nuclear-freeze deal that had been seen as a breakthrough. Washington

warns that the launch would jeopardize that deal.

The impoverished North has a history of angling for food, oil and other concessions in exchange for disarmament pledges and has previously created crises during diplomatic talks in what negotiators see as attempts to secure more aid.

## Afghan security forces kill 3 NATO troops

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Afghan security forces shot and killed three international troops Monday, one of them an American, in two attacks. They were the latest in a rising number of attacks in which Afghan forces have turned their weapons on their foreign partners.

The killings reflect a spike in tensions between Afghan and international forces that follow an American soldier's alleged massacre of Afghan civilians, the burning of Muslim holy books at a U.S. base, and uncertainty about Afghanistan's fate as foreign troops

prepare to pull out.

They also come at a time when international troops have stepped up training and mentoring of Afghan soldiers, police and government workers so that Afghans can take the lead and the foreign forces can go home. The success of that partnership is key to the U.S.-led coalition's strategy to withdraw most foreign combat forces by the end of 2014.

U.S. Marine Gen. John Allen, the top commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, told reporters at the Pentagon that these types of attacks are

characteristic of any warfare involving insurgents.

"We experienced these in Iraq. We experienced them in Vietnam," Allen said. "On any occasion where you're dealing with an insurgency and where you're also growing an indigenous force ... the enemy's going to do all that they can to disrupt both the counterinsurgency operations" and the developing nation's security forces.

Since 2007, an estimated 80 NATO service members were killed by Afghan security forces, according to an Associated Press tally, which is based

on Pentagon figures released in February. More than 75 percent of the attacks have occurred in the past two years.

Sixteen NATO service members—18 percent of the 84 foreign troops killed so far this year—have been shot and killed by Afghan soldiers and policemen or militants disguised in their uniforms, according to the AP tally.

In one incident Monday, two British service members were killed by an Afghan soldier in front of the main gate of a joint civilian-military base in southern Afghanistan, the coalition

said. Another NATO service member was shot and killed at a checkpoint in eastern Afghanistan by a man who was believed to be a member of a village-level fighting force the U.S. is fostering in hopes of countering the Taliban insurgency. The Pentagon confirmed Monday that the dead soldier was American but did not release further details.

Maj. Ian Lawrence, a British military spokesman for Task Force Helmand, said one of the British troops was a Royal Marine and the other was a soldier from the British Adjutant General's Corps. They were killed in front of the base in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital of Helmand province.

## Tibetan lights self on fire at anti-China protest

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—A Tibetan exile lit himself on fire and ran shouting through a demonstration in the Indian capital Monday, just before a visit by China's president and following dozens of self-immolations done in China in protest of its rule over Tibet.

Indian police swept through the New Delhi protest a few hours later, detaining scores of Tibetans. The man apparently had doused himself with something highly flammable and was engulfed in flames when he ran past the podium where speak-

ers were criticizing China and President Hu Jintao's visit.

Fellow activists beat out the flames with Tibetan flags and poured water onto him. He was on fire perhaps less than two minutes, but some of his clothing had disintegrated and his skin was mottled with black, burned patches by the time he was driven to a hospital.

About 30 such protests have occurred over the past year in ethnic Tibetan areas of China, and a Tibetan self-immolated last year in India, where many exiles reside. Beijing has blamed

the Dalai Lama for inciting them and called the protesters' actions a form of terrorism.

Tibetans inside China and exiles say China's crackdown on Tibetan regions is so oppressive, those who choose such a horrific form of protest feel they have no other way to express their beliefs.

Activists said the exile who self-immolated Monday is Jamphel Yeshe, 27, who escaped from Tibet in 2006 and has been living in New Delhi for two years.

He was burned on 98 percent of his body and his condition is

critical, according to the Association of Tibetan Journalists.

Protesters initially prevented police from taking him to the hospital, but officers eventually forcibly took him away.

While activists had been whispering Monday morning that something dramatic was expected at the protest, organizers insisted they were not behind the self-immolation.

"We have no idea how this happened, but we appreciate the courage," said Tenzing Nor-sang, an official with the Tibetan Youth Congress.

Hu is expected to arrive in India on Wednesday for a five-nation economic summit. Nor-sang called on the summit participants to discuss Tibet.

"If you care about peace you should raise the issue of Tibet," he said. "Hu Jintao is responsible for what is happening there."

At the protest site, a large poster of Hu—with a bloody palm print over his face—said: "Hu Jin Tao is unwelcome" at the summit.

More than 600 demonstrators marched across New Delhi to a plaza near the Indian Parliament. Some carried posters saying "Tibet is burning" or "Tibet is not part of China."

## North Korea pushes back at US criticism of launch

**PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)**—North Korea pushed back Tuesday at President Barack Obama's criticism of its plans to launch a satellite aboard a rocket, calling his stance confrontational and vowing to go forward with what it insisted was a peaceful mission.

Worries about the North's plans, which Washington and Seoul say are a cover to test long-range missile technology for a possible nuclear weapons program, have overshadowed a two-day nuclear security summit in Seoul that has drawn nearly 60 leaders.

The summit ends Tuesday. While not on the official agenda, North Korea's plans have been a major point of discussion among world leaders on the sidelines.

North Korea's surprise announcement 11 days ago of the launch came shortly after Pyongyang and Washington settled a food-aid-for-nuclear-freeze deal that had been seen as a breakthrough.

Obama during his trip to Seoul has urged Pyongyang to abandon the rocket plan or risk jeopardizing its future and thwarting the U.S.-North Korea food deal. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak's government has warned it might shoot down parts of the rocket if it violates South Korean air space.

But Obama's claims that the launch is a provocation stem from "his wrong conception," an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

The spokesman said North Korea, which calls itself the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK, will go ahead with its launch plans, which it called a sovereign state's legitimate right and crucial for its economic development.

"The DPRK will never give up the launch of a satellite for peaceful purposes," the spokesman said.

If the U.S. is sincere, Obama "should drop the confrontation conception of standing in the way of the DPRK, though belatedly, and make a bold decision to acknowledge that the DPRK also has a right to launch satellites," the spokesman said.

North Korea says it will launch its rocket around the April 15 celebration of the birthday of North Korean founder Kim Il Sung.



## World

# Annan: Syrian crisis can't be allowed to drag on

**MOSCOW (AP)**—Kofi Annan, the United Nations and Arab League envoy to Syria, said Monday there can be no deadline for ending the Syrian crisis but it's urgent to move ahead quickly to stop the killing.

Annan told reporters before leaving Moscow for Beijing that above all, the Syrian government and opposition must start a political process to resolve the yearlong conflict peacefully.

"This cannot be allowed to drag on indefinitely," he said. "I think it is urgent to move ahead ... but it is not practical to put out timetables and timelines when you haven't gotten an agreement from the parties."

Annan has been in Moscow since Saturday for talks on Syria with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

Russia is Syria's most important ally and while Moscow—along with China—has twice shielded Syria from U.N. sanctions, both countries are strongly supporting Annan's mission. Moscow has signaled growing impatience with Syrian President Bashar Assad, with Russian

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov pointedly criticizing him for being too slow with reforms.

Annan has proposed a six-point plan to Assad to end the conflict and he said Russia's leaders indicated they will use their influence "to help me constructively."

Medvedev strongly backed Annan's plan, adding that his mission "may be the last chance for Syria to avoid a protracted bloody civil war."

Annan's spokesman, Ahmad Fawzi, said in a statement later Monday that the Syrian government has formally responded to Annan's plan, which has been unanimously endorsed by the U.N. Security Council in a non-binding presidential statement.

"Mr. Annan is studying it and will respond very shortly," Fawzi said.

Annan said it will be up to the Syrians themselves to decide if Assad should step down.

"It may in the end come to that, but it's not up to me, it's up to the Syrians," said Annan, a former U.N. secretary-general. "Our effort is to help the Syr-



U.N.- Arab League envoy to Syria Kofi Annan arrives at the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for talks in Beijing, China, Tuesday, March 27, 2012.

ians come to the table and find the way out of all of this."

Annan said the message he wants to send out today "is that the transformational winds blowing today cannot be easily resisted, or cannot be resisted for long."

"The only way to deal with this is through reform, through change—and change that respects democratic principles, individual dignity, the rule of law and human rights," he said.

Annan's proposals include a

cease-fire first by the Syrian government, a daily two-hour halt to fighting to evacuate the injured and provide humanitarian aid, and inclusive Syrian-led political talks "to address the legitimate concerns of the Syrian people."

Russia and China twice vetoed European and U.S.-backed resolutions condemning Assad's crackdown on protesters, which would have been legally binding. They called the resolutions unbalanced, saying they only blamed the Syrian government and demanded an end to government attacks, not ones by the opposition.

Moscow also argued that the resolutions promoted regime change in Syria and expressed fear of outside intervention to support the rebels, as happened in Libya.

As part of his discussions with Syria, Annan said the possibility of a U.N. observer mission in Syria had been raised.

"It's not excluded that a U.N. observer force may go in to ensure that the parties honor and respect the commitments that they are going to make," Annan said.

"We hope that they would agree to cessation of hostilities very shortly, and if that happens we will have to be on the ground to monitor and ensure that all sides are respecting the agreement," he said.

## Benedict arrives in Cuba in footsteps of John Paul

**SANTIAGO, Cuba (AP)**—Pope Benedict XVI arrived in Cuba on Monday in the footsteps of his more famous predecessor, gently pressing the island's longtime communist leaders to push through "legitimate" reforms their people desire, while also criticizing the excesses of capitalism.

In contrast to the raucous welcome Benedict received in Mexico, his arrival in Cuba's second city was relatively subdued: While President Raul Castro greeted him at the airport with a 21-cannon salute and military honor guard, few ordinary Cubans lined Benedict's motorcade route into town and the pope barely waved from his glassed-in popemobile.

Santiago's main plaza, however, came alive when Benedict arrived for his evening Mass, his main public event in Cuba's second city before he heads Tuesday to Havana. While the plaza was not fully packed there was a festive atmosphere, with Cubans dancing to the rhythms of a samba band awaiting Benedict's arrival, waving small Cuban and Vatican flags.

"It is a message of love, this visit," said Jorgelina Guevara, a 59-year-old homemaker as she waited for the Mass to begin. "The Cuban people need it."

The trip comes 14 years after John Paul's historic tour, when the Polish pope who helped bring down communism in his homeland admonished Fidel Castro to free prisoners of conscience, end abortion and

### Visiting Mexico and Cuba

*Pope Benedict XVI will visit Mexico and Cuba in the spring, his first visit to Spanish-speaking nations in Latin America.*

#### In Mexico, March 23-26

- Visits Leon, where he will have official meetings with Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Archbishop Jose Martin of Leon and representatives of Mexican bishops and the Latin American and Caribbean bishops' conferences
- Celebrates Mass at Silao's Bicentennial Park at the foot of a monument to Christ the King and vespers at Leon's cathedral

#### In Cuba, March 26-28

- Official meetings with Cuban President Raul Castro and the bishops of Cuba
- Celebrates Mass at Antonio Maceo Revolution Square in Santiago and Jose Marti Revolution Square in Havana; visits Shrine of Our Lady of Charity



© 2012 MCT  
Source: Catholic News Agency  
Graphic: Pat Carr



let the Roman Catholic Church take its place in society.

Benedict's message as he arrived was subtle, taking into account the liberalizing reforms that Raul Castro has enacted since taking over from his older brother in 2006 and the greater role the Catholic Church has played in Cuban affairs, most recently in negotiating the release of dozens of political prisoners.

The pontiff, who at the start of

his trip said Marxism "no longer responds to reality," gave a much gentler message upon arriving on Cuban soil, saying he wanted to inspire and encourage Cubans on the island and beyond.

"I carry in my heart the just aspirations and legitimate desires of all Cubans, wherever they may be," he said. "Those of the young and the elderly, of adolescents and children, of the sick and workers, of prisoners

and their families, and of the poor and those in need."

In his own remarks, the Cuban leader assured Benedict his country favors complete religious liberty and has good relations with all religious institutions. He also criticized the 50-year U.S. economic embargo and defended the socialist ideal of providing for those less fortunate.

"We have confronted scarcity but have never failed in our duty to share with those who have less," Castro said, adding that his country remains determined to chart its own path and resist efforts by "the most forceful power that history has ever known"—a reference to the United States—to thwart the island's socialist model.

The two men greeted each other with clasped hands and wide smiles after the pope arrived on a special Alitalia flight that flew Cuban and Vatican flags from the cockpit as it taxied along the tarmac.

Benedict's three-day stay in Cuba inevitably sparked comparisons to his predecessor's, when Fidel Castro traded his army fatigues for a suit and tie to greet the pope and where John Paul uttered the now-famous words: "May Cuba, with all its magnificent potential, open itself up to the world, and may the world open itself up to Cuba."

Benedict referred repeatedly to John Paul in his speech Monday, saying his visit was a "gentle breath of fresh air" that gave strength to the church on the island.

## Obama to Russia: More flexibility after elections

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—President Barack Obama told Russia's leader Monday that he would have more flexibility after the November election to deal with the contentious issue of missile defense, a candid assessment of political reality that was picked up by a microphone without either leader apparently knowing.

Obama's Republican opponents pounced on the comment, saying the president has a hidden agenda that could include concessions to the Russians if he is re-elected this fall.

"This is my last election," Obama is heard telling outgoing Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. "After my election, I have more flexibility."

Medvedev replied in English, according to a tape by ABC News: "I understand. I will transmit this information to Vladimir," an apparent reference to incoming President Vladimir Putin.

Obama and Medvedev did not intend for their comments, made during a meeting in Seoul, South Korea, to be made public.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Ontario's top court legalizes brothels for safety

**TORONTO (AP)**—A ban on brothels puts prostitutes at risk and is unconstitutional, Ontario's top court ruled Monday, in a case that is expected to be appealed to Canada's top court and have ramifications for the country at large. The Ontario Court of Appeal said sex workers should be allowed to work safely indoors. "The world in which street prostitutes actually operate is a world of dark streets and barren, isolated, silent places," said the five-judge panel in their ruling. "It is a dangerous world, with always the risk of violence and even death." The court in Canada's most populous province has given the government a year to rewrite the law if it chooses.

#### Strauss-Kahn gets preliminary charges in prostitution probe

**LILLE, France (AP)**—Dominique Strauss-Kahn was handed preliminary charges Monday alleging he was involved in a French prostitution ring, his lawyer said. The former International Monetary Fund chief is denying wrongdoing. It was a stunning blow on the home front for Strauss-Kahn, a onetime French presidential hopeful whose sexual behavior has been in the international spotlight over the past year. The French charges come two days before a New York court takes up a civil case in which a hotel maid accuses Strauss-Kahn of sexually assaulting her.



# Focus

When Academy Award-winning director and National Geographic explorer-in-residence James Cameron continues his historic dives to the floor of the Mariana Trench, he will also visit the little-known Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

The monument, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of its National Wildlife Refuge System and in consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is recognized for its exceptional geologic features and un-described or yet-to-be-discovered life forms in the most extreme environment on Earth.

On March 25, Cameron successfully completed his nearly 7-mile dive in a submersible to Challenger Deep, the deepest place known on Earth.

His plans include a future submersible dive to the second-deepest place, Sirena Deep, within the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. Although the date of the dive to Sirena Deep is not yet known, Cameron will be the first visitor ever to the Trench Unit of the monument. The Challenger Deep area is not within the monument.

Sirena Deep is remarkable for its steep walls, distinctive geologic features, and life forms not documented elsewhere at such depth, more than 30,000 feet. The deepest areas of the Mariana Trench are likened to an inverted chain of islands, where each "peak" points downward, but like islands, each feature can be geologically and biologically unique. Understanding what exists in the Trench and how life survives in such extreme environments is essential to its ongoing conservation management as a marine national monument.

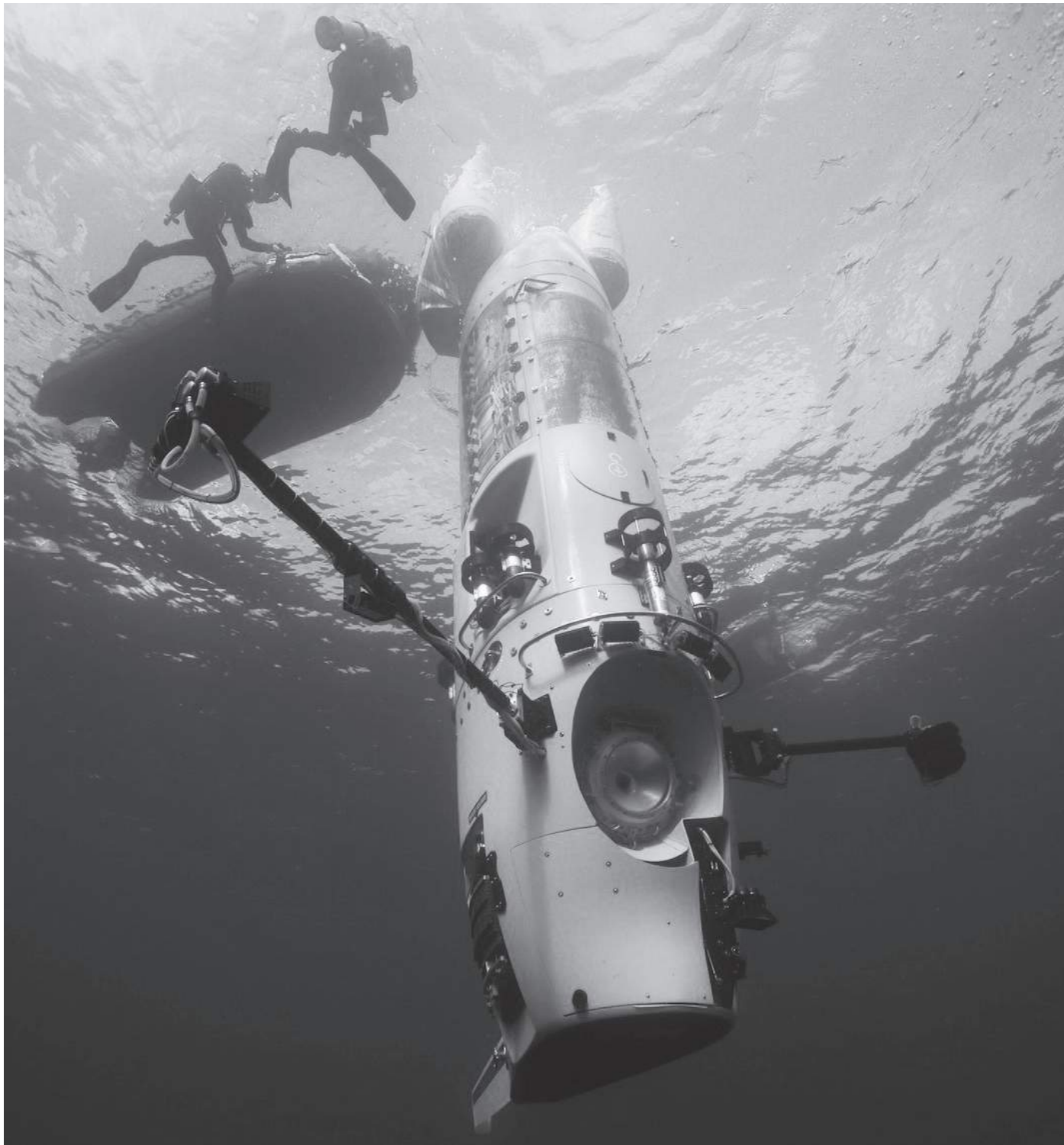
The historic dive expedition, known as *Deepsea Challenge* ([www.deepseachallenge.com](http://www.deepseachallenge.com)), is a partnership between Cameron, the National Geographic Society and Rolex, and takes place in a custom-built, 24-foot-long (7.3-meters) submersible co-designed by Cameron.

Although best known for directing films such as *The Abyss*, *Titanic* and *Avatar*, Cameron is also an avid explorer. His historic first solo dive to *Challenger Deep*, and the first manned scientific collections at those depths, was his 74th submersible dive.

Cameron's expedition team worked with the Fish and Wildlife Service in planning dives that comply with the monument's conservation mandate. Expedition members assisted the Service during the manager's review of the applications for scientific exploration and filming in the monument by providing scientific publications on human effects on the deep sea and advising on prac-

## ON THE NET

Learn more about the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument at <http://www.fws.gov/marianastrenchmarinemonument/>



MARK THIESSEN/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The Deepsea Challenger submersible begins its first 2.5-mile (4-km) test dive off the coast of Papua New Guinea. The sub is the centerpiece of Deepsea Challenge, a joint scientific project by explorer and filmmaker James Cameron, the National Geographic Society and Rolex to conduct deep-ocean research.

## Marine monument managers back Cameron on HISTORIC DIVES

tices to minimize potential effects of future exploration of the monument. Monument partners at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration also helped, providing their expert review.

Because the Trench Unit of the monument, which includes Sirena Deep, is also managed as unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, two Special Use Permits were issued authorizing the *Deepsea Challenge* expedition to work in the monument. While stipulating measures to minimize possible impacts, the permits allow the collection of scientific specimens and sam-



MARK THIESSEN/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Explorer and filmmaker James Cameron talks with his crew in front of the Deepsea Challenger following testing of the submersible in Jervis Bay, south of Sydney, Australia.

ples and the making video and audio recordings. For example, the *Deepsea Challenger* must be rinsed with freshwater between dives to further reduce the unlikely possibility of introducing some microorganism from one dive site to another.

In addition to the unique scientific opportunities, Cameron's expeditions promote the need to protect and preserve individual ecosystems of the planet, including deep sea locations.

"For more than 109 years, the National Wildlife Refuge System has conserved the nation's most important fish and wildlife habitat," said Refuge

Chief Jim Kurth. "The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument protects one of the most unique ocean environments in the world. It is a place we know precious little about. Like the other three marine national monuments managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Mariana Trench is little explored. But we do know one fact, irrefutably: these natural resources are unique and irreplaceable. I can't think of a more important message that Mr. Cameron's exploration will send to his legions of young fans. After all, it's their legacy that he is giving us a lens into. We are committed to be good stewards of this incredible place."

The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument is approximately 95,216 square miles (roughly the size of Oregon) and consists of submerged lands and some of the waters of the Mariana Archipelago within three designated units. The Trench Unit and the Volcanic Unit are also managed as units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Presidential Proclamation 8335 established the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument in January 2009 and assigned management responsibility to the Secretary of the Interior, further delegated to the National Wildlife Refuge System of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Management of fisheries-related activities was assigned to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The two agencies consult and coordinate with each other in their management of the monument, in addition to coordinating with the local governments of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam, the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Defense, and Department of State.

Local citizens of the Mariana Islands and interested people from around the world are also involved in trench monument conservation management through non-governmental organization partners, including the Friends of the Mariana Trench Monument.

Dr. Douglas Barrett of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, the Deepsea Challenge expedition's chief scientist, said the extremes of low temperature, high pressure, darkness, and altered nutrients in deep-sea trench environments have influenced the evolution of life far below the waters' surface on our planet.

"Deep sea life includes diverse microbes—the engines of biogeochemical cycles—and also fauna waiting to be discovered," Barrett said. "The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument is the only protected trench on Earth, and although less visible to Americans than Yellowstone or Yosemite, it should be no less cherished." (USFWS)



## Campus Life

# SSHS group gets behind the 'green' campaign

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School students are becoming more aware of the need to conserve the environment by becoming a part of an emerging group that seeks to teach students green and eco-friendly activities.

The Youth Environmental Ambassadors or YEA was re-established about two years ago after a hiatus brought by the departure of its former adviser, said current co-adviser Taunya DeBoer.

From just 16 students, YEA's membership has grown to over a hundred high school learners—about 65 to 70 of whom are active with the group's various activities.

"Our mission is to do environmental awareness," DeBoer told Saipan Tribune, "to try to spread the idea that if we start at a young age with students with recycling and changing our lifestyle, then we'll be able to do more about the island's environment."

It was YEA, DeBoer said, that initiated the recycling initiative at the SSHS, having reused 12,000 lbs of paper in the last two years and the group is now working on getting more support from the community as they endeavor in plastic



Members of Saipan Southern High School's Youth Environmental Ambassadors pose for a photo during the launching of the Our Laolao campaign and the Tasi Watch outreach program at Laolao Bay last Thursday.

bottle recycling campaign. "Right now, we only have a bin for paper."

DeBoer said the group is hoping to see more recycling take place on island "so that it might be more economically feasible and it would keep more garbage

out of landfills."

She said YEA is collaborating with agencies and non-profit organizations such as the Division of Environmental Quality and the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance in pursuing environment-friendly activities.

"We have at least one community event every month where we do beach cleanups, school cleanups, environmental awareness campaigns like cleaning up a neighborhood bus stop or playground," she added.

DeBoer said YEA also started the school farm called Manta Farm which aims to teach students with skills "that kind of have been phased out or lost" like growing traditional crops such as tapioca and breadfruit, partnering with the Northern

Marianas College – Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services which has taught them to cultivate in the farm other local trees and plants.

Last Thursday, DeBoer and some 11 members of YEA were at the launching of the Our Laolao campaign and the Tasi Watch outreach program, two grassroots initiatives dedicated to preserving and protecting Laolao Bay.

"It aligns well with our mission statement," said DeBoer, adding that the group aims to educate the public to adopt the "pack it in, pack it out" approach where no garbage is left behind in beaches that people visit and use.

DeBoer encourages all SSHS students to join YEA and learn more about their environment and work on protecting the island, which in turn promotes tourism and helps the economy.

But the co-adviser noted that it's not the membership that poses an issue for YEA but teachers who can take the responsibility of serving as an adviser.

"There are students who are willing to get involved. What we need is an adult to speed up the campaign and be able to have the time to supervise it," said DeBoer.

DeBoer is optimistic that the YEA fever will spread to other schools. "We would like to see YEA founded in one of the other high schools so we could hopefully spread campus recycling."

## 5th Grade Family Fitness Night at SVES

Can you come out and play? The 5th Grade Family Fitness Night will be held at the San Vicente Elementary School field and basketball court on Friday, March 30, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. This event is open to all students, family, and interested members of the San Vicente community.

This event aims to offer fun fitness activities that parents, students, and members of the community can do together free of charge. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

In the field area, there will be interactive physical activity games for all ages with Ms. Miller and Boxersize with Trench Tech assisted by Ms. Adams and Ms. Armi. There will also be basketball activities with Ms. Nada and NMC Crees Health and Nutrition Information at the bus shelter.

All activities are structured in such a way that all fitness levels can participate. (PR)

## KICK BUTTS DAY

Right, Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School student Jose Rabago poses with his winning design for the school's banner for Kick Butts Day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Below, students of the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School hold the school's Kick Butts Day Banner in the parade on March 23, 2012.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Below right, the winning dance group, the Lost Squad, pose for a picture at the annual Kick Butts Day activities at Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High on Friday, March 23.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





## Life & Style

# 250-year-old Japanese paintings to be shown in DC

WASHINGTON (AP)—A 30-scroll set of nature paintings from the 1700s that's owned by Japan's royal family and considered a cultural treasure is being shown in its entirety for the first time outside of the country at an exhibit in Washington.

The "Colorful Realm of Living Beings," created more than 250 years ago by artist Ito Jakuchu, consists of intricate paintings of birds, flowers, insects, fish and other animals on vertical silk scrolls. It opens to the public Friday at the National Gallery of Art and will be on view through April 29.

For only the second time in 120 years, the nature paintings are paired with Jakuchu's "Sakyamuni Triptych." In this piece, three Buddhist deities overlook the bird-and-flower paintings to serve as the exhibit's centerpiece. The pairing evokes the original religious context of the nature paintings as objects of worship, curators said.

Since 1889, the fragile silk scroll paintings have been held in separate locations. The nature paintings were donated to Japan's royal family and held ever since by the world's oldest monarchy. The Buddhist triptych is held at the monastery where Jakuchu originally left his works.

Even though his masterpieces are kept mostly out of view to help preserve them, Jakuchu has become Japan's most famous pre-modern artist, said guest curator Yukio Lippit, a Harvard University professor of Japanese art. While his works were



Rev. Konen Yamaki, a monk from Shokokuji Monastery in Japan, enters to perform a blessing ceremony past the Sakyamuni Triptych, part of a 30-scroll set of paintings from the 1700s, considered a cultural treasure of Japan, Monday, March 26, 2012, at The National Gallery of Art in Washington.

famous around the time they were painted, his achievements were later forgotten to a certain extent.

"Awareness of the painter has risen again only in recent years," Lippit said.

Beyond Japan, the United States is one of the only places where Jakuchu's works have been recognized and presented, Lippit said. In 1904, the Japanese pavilion at the St. Louis

World's Fair featured a room adorned with his works.

This new four-week special exhibition celebrates the centennial of Japan's gift of 3,000 cherry trees to the U.S. in 1912 as a symbol of friendship. Other rarely seen works by Japanese artists also are on display at the Smithsonian's Sackler Gallery of Art to mark the occasion.

On Monday, four Zen Buddhist monks from the Shokokuji

Monastery in Kyoto where Jakuchu left his paintings held a blessing ceremony to complete the exhibit's installation in Washington. They burned incense, chanted prayers dedicated to the Buddha, and one monk knelt before the Buddhist paintings. Their prayers were dedicated in part to honoring the artist's family and calling for world peace.

Jakuchu's painting style in "Colorful Realm" was both ex-

perimental and classical when he painted the scrolls between 1757 and 1766. He borrowed from traditions of Chinese bird-and-flower painting but also experimented with color. He took the traditional Japanese palette of about 20 colors and carefully mixed, shaded and layered his pigments. Perhaps most notably, Jakuchu applied paint to the backside of the silk to be visible from the front in a muted

way through the silk weave.

"What we are witnessing on the front is due in considerable part to what's going on behind the surface of the painting," Lippit said. "There's a strategic process ... to create an effect of a kind of subterranean glow and inner life to the work."

Curators have discovered new details about his techniques through conservation of the scrolls and research in the past decade. A recent analysis discovered synthetic Prussian blue dye in one of the scrolls, which would be the earliest known usage of this European-imported dye in East Asia.

Earl A. Powell III, director of the National Gallery of Art, said the Japanese were eager to partner for the exhibit even after the devastating earthquake in the country just one year ago. Japanese Ichiro Fujisaki said the exhibit was a priority because of his nation's special relationship with the United States.

Masayuki Inoue, the deputy director for cultural affairs at newspaper publisher Nikkei Inc., which co-organized the exhibit, said it was an expensive undertaking to transport and insure the historic paintings for exhibition thousands of miles from their homes, though he would not disclose the cost.

Showing such cultural treasures from Japan would be similar to touring the works of Leonardo da Vinci or other great European painters, he said.

"Even for Japanese eyes," he said, "it may be 50 years (before) you can see this again."

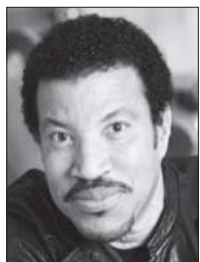
## Country stars stampede to studio to help Richie

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Kenny Chesney was so excited about the idea of working with Lionel Richie that he drunk-dialed the pop legend to suggest a song. Darin Rucker tossed aside a lyric sheet in the studio, saying he'd been preparing for the moment his entire life. And so many people were clamoring to get on the project that stars like Keith Urban and Brad Paisley didn't even make the cut—this time.

It's not surprising that a musician would consider working with Richie a dream: The Grammy and Oscar winner is considered one of music's all-time greats, having sold more than 22 million albums over a career that has spanned nearly four decades, from his time as a member of The Commodores to his illustrious solo career. Richie has also written

classics that include "Endless Love," "All Night Long" and "Say You, Say Me."

But the excitement over his country duets album also reflects Richie's deep roots—



Richie

and remarkable success—in the genre. Richie wrote one of country music's enduring hits, Kenny Rogers' "Lady," and Conway Twitty's take on the Commodores' "Three Times A Lady" became a huge country hit. Richie also collaborated with Alabama on "Deep River Woman," another song that became a country classic.

So mix Richie's rich pop history with his country music legacy, and you can see why his return to his country roots on the new duets album "Tuskegee," named after his hometown in Alabama, is creating such a buzz in Nashville.

## Tests show aging of Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Bark beetles and old age have damaged Leonardo da Vinci's 15th-century painting "Lady with an Ermine," but the masterpiece is still holding up well, according to a conservationist at the Polish museum where it is displayed.

Recent tests show the chestnut board on which Leonardo painted his masterpiece has weakened after being nibbled at by beetles over the centuries, and the painting has also suffered from a dense network of cracks, said Janusz Czop, the chief conservationist at the National Museum in Krakow.

One of only four existing female portraits by Leonardo, the oil painting shows a young woman in three-quarter profile wearing a sumptuous low-cut red and blue dress as she holds a white ermine, an animal also known as a stoat. Historians believe the subject was Cecilia Gallerani, the mistress of the Duke of Milan, Ludovico Sforza, when she was 16 or 17. Leonardo painted it around the year 1490.



In this April 12, 2011 file photo art conservators Janusz Czop, left, and Janusz Walek present to journalists the Leonardo da Vinci painting "Lady with an Ermine" at the Royal Castle in Warsaw, Poland.

"The painting is 500 years old and has been subject to all the processes of aging," including journeying between Poland, France and Germany through the wars and uprisings of the 19th and 20th centuries, Czop said Monday.

"Still, all things considered, it is in very good condition, thanks to the technology that da Vinci used," Czop said, noting the master painted on durable wood.

More state-of-the-art and non-invasive tests—such as computer tomography—are to be performed to help experts decide what kind of maintenance the masterpiece requires, Czop said. For the past 100 years the painting has belonged to the Czartoryskis, an aristocratic Polish family.

The painting was recently exhibited in the Spanish, German and British capitals but Czop said those trips did not hurt it. Nonetheless, authorities have decided not to let it leave the museum again for at least 10 years.



# Lions Gate shares up on 'Hunger Games' huge debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lions Gate Entertainment seized a pot of gold.

When the film and television production company bought Summit Entertainment in January, the deal brought bankable teen franchises "The Hunger Games" and "Twilight" under one roof.

The first of four planned "Hunger Games" films broke the record for a non-sequel over the weekend with a \$153 million haul in the U.S. and Canada. That beat expectations and gave it the third-highest opening weekend

ever. And the "Twilight" finale is set for release in November.

These two movies could generate about \$450 million in profit combined, estimates Cowen & Co. analyst Doug Creutz. The adventures of bow-wielding heroine Katniss Everdeen alone could translate to 6 to 7 years of higher earnings, Creutz says, adding that Lions Gate may post its first profit in five years for the fiscal year that ends March 31.

More than two-thirds of Lions

Gate's revenue comes from the movie business, so its first blockbuster means a lot. It had been getting by with staples like Tyler Perry comedies and the "Saw" horror series.

The rest of Lions Gate's revenue comes from television productions such as "Mad Men," which kicked off its fifth season Sunday. The company doesn't reap ad revenue from the hit TV show, but the show's success with audiences keeps Lions Gate in demand as a production company. It also boosts

sales of DVDs and licensing revenue from reruns.

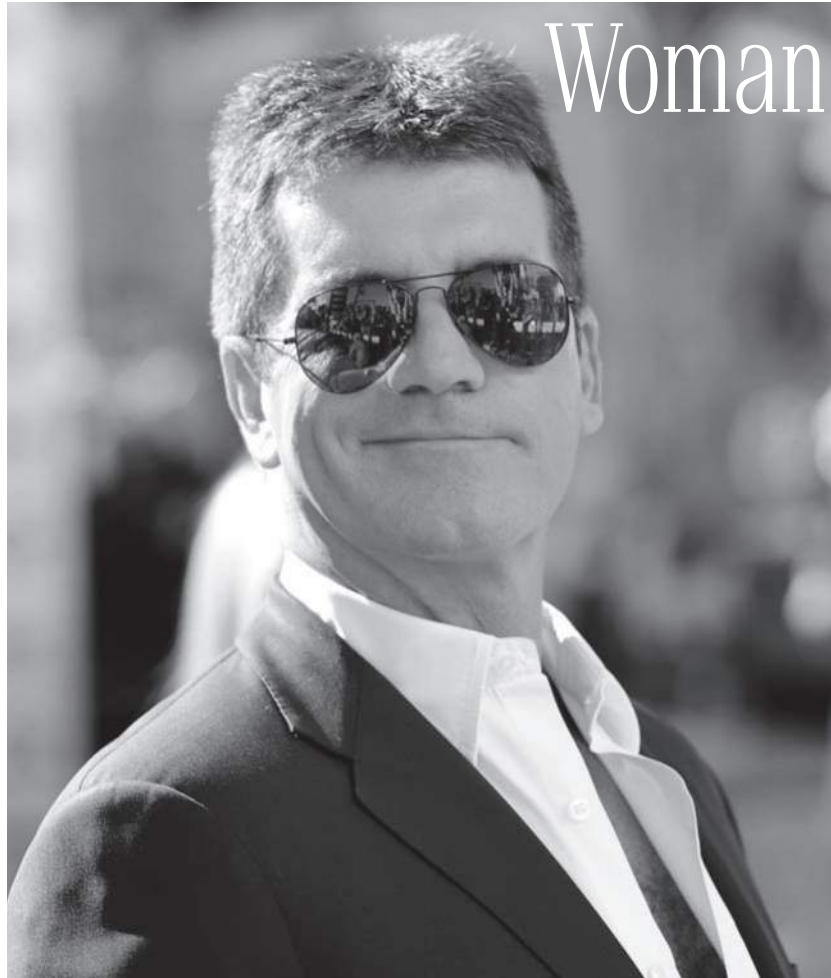
Plus there's another show in the hopper: Charlie Sheen's "Anger Management," which debuts in June on FX. If the first 10 episodes go well, the company will automatically be signed up for several years of work.

Lions Gate's stock is up more than 75 percent this year. Not surprising, given the huge buzz leading up to the release of "The Hunger Games." But this weekend's better-than-expected

opening led several analysts to raise their profit estimates.

The only two movies ever to bring in more at the box office on their opening weekend were last year's "Harry Potter" finale, which took in \$169.2 million, and 2008's "The Dark Knight," which brought \$158.4 million its first weekend.

Some analysts said Lions Gate shares should reach or top \$16 over the next year. The stock rose 65 cents, or 4.5 percent, to close at \$15.18 on Monday.



AP  
American Idol" judge Simon Cowell speaks during the 2007 Fox Winter Press Tour in this January 20 2007, file photo in Pasadena, Calif.

## Woman charged with break-in at Cowell's house

LONDON (AP)—A woman accused of breaking into Simon Cowell's house wielding a broken brick and then hiding in the entertainment mogul's wardrobe appeared in a London court Monday.

Leanne Zaloumis, 29, was charged with aggravated burglary after the incident on Saturday night.

Prosecutors said Cowell was watching TV in the bedroom of his London mansion when he heard a loud bang coming from his bathroom and discovered Zaloumis inside with a brick.

Cowell's security staff confined the intruder to a bedroom until police arrived and found her in the wardrobe. Police officers drew their weapons as they arrested Zaloumis, and later found blood stains in the bathroom, prosecutor Paul Mitchell said. The charge, read out in court, alleges that Zaloumis intended to "inflict grievous bodily harm upon a person therein and at the time of committing the said burglary had with you a weapon of offense, namely a broken house brick."

She also is accused of shouting at Cowell and hurling items at his bathroom window while standing on a roof outside.

Cowell, 52, has gained fame in both Britain and North America as producer and an acerbic judge on TV talent shows including "The X Factor" and "America's Got Talent."

Cowell spokesman Max Clifford said Cowell had described the incident as "just like something out of a horror movie."

"He was shaken up," Clifford said. "Strange as it might seem he feels lucky, because it could have been a gun or a knife in her hand."

Zaloumis, who appeared in court with unkempt hair and a baggy gray sweat shirt, spoke only to confirm her name and address during a brief hearing at West London Magistrates' Court.

District Judge James Henderson ordered her detained until her next hearing on June 12.

## Weinstein Co. to release 'Bully' without rating

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Weinstein Co. is moving past the R rating earned by its documentary "Bully" and plans to release the film unrated.

The company announced Monday that "Bully" will hit theaters March 30 without a rating from the Motion Picture Association of America, meaning some theater may choose not to show it.

The MPAA gave the film an R rating for language and declined to change it when the Weinstein Co. appealed. That inspired teen activist Katy Butler to start an online petition seeking a lower rating so more young people could see the movie.

She has collected more than 475,000 signatures so far and even met with MPAA officials earlier this month, but the group stood its ground and "Bully" remained rated R, which requires children under 17 to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

John Fithian, president of the National Association of Theatre Owners, told the Weinstein Co. that releasing the film unrated could result in theaters treating the teen-focused documentary as an NC-17 film, which means no one 17 and under can be admitted.

Stephen Bruno, president of marketing for the Weinstein Co., isn't too concerned.

"We believe theater owners everywhere will step up and do what's right for the benefit of all of the children out there who have been bullied or may have otherwise become bullies themselves," Bruno said Monday, adding that the company plans to make the film available to teachers, parents and students nationwide.

Filmmaker Lee Hirsch said he declined to edit the documentary's offensive language because it would diminish the painful reality of bullying.

"The small amount of language in the film that's responsible for the R rating is there because it's real. It's what the children who are victims of bullying face on most days," Hirsch said.

He expects many young people to see the film, "so it's up to the theaters to let them in." The MPAA did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Monday.

Butler said she's pleased the film will maintain its original content.

"The MPAA said they wouldn't drop the 'R' rating unless this language was removed," she said. "But nothing can remove it from the halls and playgrounds of schools where bullied students hear it each day, except education and exposure."

## Tony Goldwyn almost didn't go into the family business

By LIAINE LEE  
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PASADENA, Calif.—There was a time when actor-director Tony Goldwyn despaired of ever gaining a foothold in Hollywood. In his case that was odd because he bears the famous Goldwyn name.

As the grandson of the legendary Samuel Goldwyn and the son of producer Samuel Goldwyn Jr., you'd think he'd carry a get-out-of-auditioning-free card.

Not so, he says. "I can't remember exactly when, but I was in my mid-20s and I had gotten work. I'd worked a fair bit in the theater and I was trying to break in out here. And I had guest parts on TV shows, but I could never get auditions for movies," he says.

"That was just very hard when you worked once every few months, but you didn't know if you were going to get another job...And in Hollywood, that's a rough place. So if you are a struggling actor, you are invisible ... what made it bizarre was being from a showbiz family. To feel invisible but have a big name was a weird feeling and difficult."

At 19 he received some advice that was to steer him for the rest of his life. "My brother-in-law was a very famous jazz musician (Gary Burton). And I wanted to do this and was thinking 'I don't know if I have the talent.' And he

said, 'I felt the same way when I was your age, but I knew if I committed 100 percent to it, either that was what I was going to do or it would lead me to something else I didn't know about yet. But if I didn't make a 100 percent commitment, I knew I would be the guy who sat back and said, 'Maybe I could have done it.'"

In fact, Goldwyn, 51, resisted for a long time. "Until I started acting in high school, I wanted to get away from show business and do something totally different," he says, seated in a wing-backed chair in the lobby of a hotel here.

"I had no sense of, 'Oh, I will naturally go into this business.' So it was more of a problem when I fell in love with acting in high school. And it was 'Oh, God, now I'm going to be in the family business, kind of orbit.' But now it is a beautiful thing and I feel kind of privileged to be a part of it."

He was 14 when he tried out for his first role. And he only did it because his brother was involved in the theater department. "I auditioned for a part in 'Inherit the Wind' and I remember sitting with the director and reading the part thinking, '(Gasp) I know how to do this. I KNOW how to do this.'"

Still, it wasn't easy inheriting the show-biz mantle. "It was very difficult at first, perhaps psychologically more than anything," says Goldwyn. "Because you have this big name you have



CRAIG SJODIN/ABC/MCT  
ABC's "Scandal" stars Tony Goldwyn as President Fitzgerald Grant.

to live up to, and you assume that people have these big preconceptions that you have to live up to. 'Oh, their kid wants to be an actor, showbiz kid.' So you have to prove yourself doubly and also perhaps to find who you are, like everyone has to do. That was hard. But once I did and had some success, then it transformed and became this wonderful thing to be a part of."

He's more than a part of it. An esteemed director, Goldwyn has put his directing imprint on shows like "Justified," "Dexter" and "A Walk on the

Moon," and starred in such films as "Ghost," "The Last Samurai" and "The Pelican Brief."

In spite of his clean-cut all-American looks he's played everything from a homeless addict to the president of the United States, which is how we see him today as part of ABC's new series, "Scandal."

And it wasn't even his acting that earned him the part. "Scandal" is produced by Shonda Rhimes, creator of "Grey's Anatomy" and "Private Practice," and will premiere on April 5.

"Shonda just asked me to do it," says Goldwyn, leaning back in the chair, resting his chin on his right hand. "We knew each other because I had directed 'Grey's Anatomy' in the first season, and we really had hit it off. And I got this offer to do it, and when I heard that Shonda had this show and Kerry Washington was starring in it, that was a huge attraction to me."

Goldwyn has been married for 25 years and is the father of two daughters, 21 and 16. Parenthood changed him, he thinks. "It got my attention off myself. One of the hazards of being an actor is that you get very self-focused, and having a child necessarily becomes all about them. And I found that very liberating and important when you realize you are much more creative and productive and healthy when your attention is directed at giving to others instead of taking care of yourself."



# Bobby Brown arrested on suspicion of DUI



In this Feb. 18, 2012 file photo, singer Bobby Brown, former husband of the late Whitney Houston performs with New Edition at Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Conn.

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Officials in Southern California say Bobby Brown has been arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence.

California Highway Patrol Officer Mike Harris says Brown was arrested around 12:20 p.m. Monday in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles. He failed a field sobriety test and was booked on suspicion of DUI.

Harris says the R&B singer was pulled over after an officer saw him

talking on his cellphone without a hands-free unit and noticed he appeared to be impaired.

Los Angeles police say Brown was released from jail on his own recognizance shortly before 2 p.m.

The 43-year-old is the ex-husband of Whitney Houston and a founding member of the group New Edition.

An email message to his attorney, Christopher Brown, was not immediately returned.

## Kimmel to host 64th Primetime Emmy Awards

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Late-night host Jimmy Kimmel just got a prime-time gig: Host of the 64th Primetime Emmy Awards.

The star and executive producer of "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" will host the Emmy Awards ceremony on Sept. 23 at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

"I hope to be able to do for the Emmys this year what Eddie Murphy did for the Oscars," Kimmel joked, referring to the comic actor who pulled out as host of this year's Academy Awards. This is Kimmel's first time hosting the Emmys.

Kimmel's namesake show is in its 10th season on ABC. He previously hosted the American Music Awards and the ESPY Awards and is set to host the White House Cor-

respondents' dinner next month.

ABC also announced that director and producer Don Mischer will executive produce the Emmy telecast. Mischer recently directed and

produced the Academy Awards. This is his 12th time at the helm of the Emmys.

He said he's "thrilled" to produce the Emmys again.

"We love television and look forward to working with the television academy and ABC in creating a show that is fast-paced, humorous, unpredictable, and at times irreverent, but clearly celebratory of our incredible industry," Mischer said in a statement Monday.

The Emmy Awards, put on by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, honor the best in TV.



Kimmel

## Lopez announces first concerts in Brazil

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Jennifer Lopez is in Brazil this week for her show "Q'Viva," but she's never performed in the country. That will soon change when she headlines a music festival there this summer.

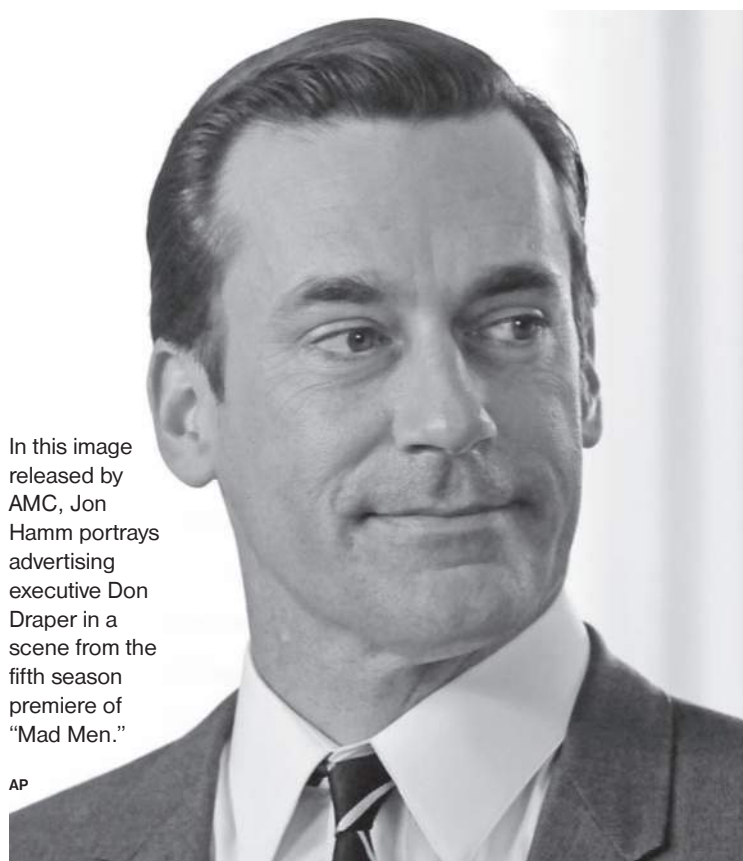


Lopez

The "American Idol" judge announced in a statement Monday that she would be

performing at the Pop Music Festival in Sao Paulo on June 23 and in Rio de Janeiro on June 27.

Lopez was in Brazil to promote "Q'Viva," the Latin-focused talent show that she hosts with her ex, Marc Anthony. It airs on Univision and also Fox, which also airs "American Idol."



In this image released by AMC, Jon Hamm portrays advertising executive Don Draper in a scene from the fifth season premiere of "Mad Men."

AP

## 'Mad Men' ads up record audience for season debut

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Absence made the heart grow fonder for "Mad Men" fans, who flocked to the fifth-season premiere in record numbers.

AMC network says Sunday's premiere telecast drew 3.5 million viewers. This marks a 21 percent growth over season four's premiere. AMC said Monday that the cumulative audience for the night's two airings of the debut episode was 4.4 million viewers.

The audience had been kept waiting for 17 months after "Mad Men" aired its fourth-season finale in October 2010.

The much-acclaimed drama is set in the advertising world of 1960s New York City. It stars Jon Hamm as ad exec Don Draper.

## Lover who won't commit has every reason not to

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a 45-year-old married woman with four kids. I fell in love with a longtime friend, "Hugh," two years ago. He's single and has never been married.



Dear Abby

I told him I want a relationship, but he says that since I'm married we can't have one. I told him I love him, but he's not sure he feels as strong about it as I do. We have been spending a lot of time together and have started to get intimate.

I told Hugh I don't want to just fool around—I want a commitment. He worries about my kids, and that if I leave their father they won't understand.

My husband is very cold and distant. We don't say much to each other anymore; we're just two adults living in the same house raising our kids. We have gone to counseling, but it didn't help. My husband says things are fine—but they're not.

I'm angry because Hugh is willing to fool around but not commit. He says this shouldn't go on anymore and his heart isn't in it. The fact that I'm married bothers him. I told him to wait and eventually my husband and I will divorce. I'm hurt by his decision to back out. I feel he wanted the intimacy but doesn't want ME, and I feel used. How do I sort this out?

USED IN MASSACHUSETTS

**DEAR "USED":** You weren't used—you threw yourself at Hugh, and what has happened was by mutual consent. Why would you expect a commitment from him when you haven't shown yourself capable of sticking with one? I credit Hugh for his honesty—he hasn't led you on. That you're married SHOULD bother him.

When a man tells you his "heart" isn't in it, trust me, the rest of him isn't far behind. Don't waste your time being hurt. Learn from this. You have unfinished business to attend to. Your marriage is a mess. If it doesn't survive, you owe it to the next man in your life to be available before you start prospecting. If you're not, this will happen to you again and again.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** A few days ago, my significant other, his 18-year-old daughter, "Maria," and I were in our living room discussing "Jonah," a slightly older guy she has been dating and who spends a lot of time here. I told her I have high expectations for her and think she can do a lot better than him.

I didn't realize that Jonah was in the next room when I spoke my mind or that he had heard me. My boyfriend told me later that Jonah said, "Now I know how she really feels about me!"

Abby, he's a nice kid, and he's always welcome here. I feel terrible about hurting his feelings, even though my opinion about him not being good enough for Maria hasn't changed. Still, I know the effect crass words can have on a young person, and I should have thought twice before opening my mouth.

Should I apologize to him for what I said? If so, what should I say?

HOOF IN MOUTH IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR HOOF IN MOUTH:** What happened was regrettable. By all means apologize to Maria's boyfriend for hurting his feelings. Tell him that you didn't mean to be cruel, but that you would feel better about the relationship if he had higher goals. It might be the push he needs to raise his ambitions and become more successful in life when he's older.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Erotic novel acquired by film producers

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Universal Pictures and Focus Features have acquired the rights to E.L. James' bestselling erotic novel, "Fifty Shades of Gray." In a joint announcement Monday, Universal and Focus called the word-of-mouth sensation a "special story." First released by an Australian publisher, James' novel is an explicit tale about billionaire Christian Grey and college student Anastasia Steele. Vintage Books, a paperback imprint of Random House Inc, recently became the U.S. distribu-

tor of "Fifty Shades" and its two follow-ups, "Fifty Shades Darker" and "Fifty Shades Freed." James is a London based writer.

### Julie Otsuka wins PEN/Faulkner prize

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Julie Otsuka's "The Buddha in the Attic," a brief, poetic novel about young Japanese women who emigrate to the U.S. and marry men they have never met, has won the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. The PEN/Faulkner Foundation announced Monday that Otsuka will receive \$15,000 for the prize, which

has been given in previous years to Philip Roth and John Updike among others. Her novel was a finalist last fall for the National Book Award. Faulkner finalists included novels by Anita Desai and Russell Banks and short story collections by Don DeLillo and Steven Millhauser.

### Les Paul's guitars, recording gear up for auction

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Historic guitars from Les Paul's personal collection and recording equipment owned by the pioneering musician will be sold at auction. Celebrity auctioneer Darren Julien says the

sale includes rare guitars, mixing consoles and the grand piano from Paul's home recording studio. Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills will host the sale over three days, including what would have been Paul's 97th birthday: June 9. A guitarist and inventor, Paul developed one of the first solid-body electric guitars — released commercially in 1952 as the Gibson Les Paul — as well as the technology behind modern multi-track recording. He is recognized in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and the National Inventors Hall of Fame. The auction benefits the Les Paul Foundation.



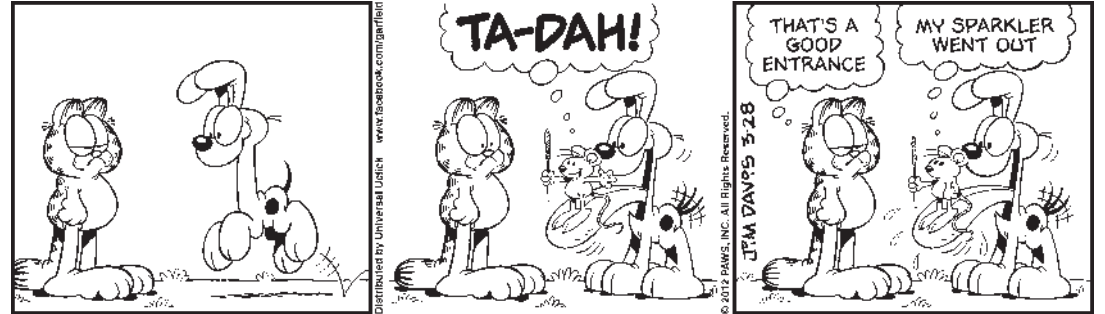
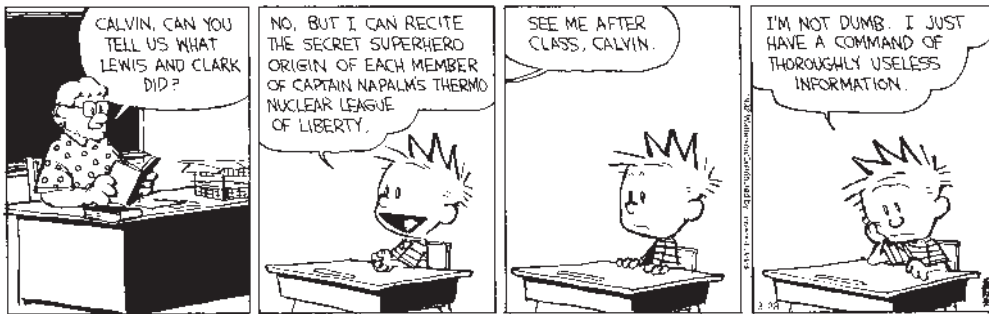
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Comic strip penguin  
5 Witness  
8 Slightly  
12 Kate's role in "Titanic"  
13 Luau bowlful  
14 Bro  
15 Very active  
17 Capri, e.g.  
18 Overexert  
19 It's handy if you have to break your word  
21 — -la-la  
22 Roger Rabbit, e.g.  
23 "Great!"  
26 Performance  
28 Exhaust  
31 Egg  
33 Kanga-roo's move  
35 Betty's "Hot in Cleveland" role  
36 Frankincense or myrrh

**DOWN**

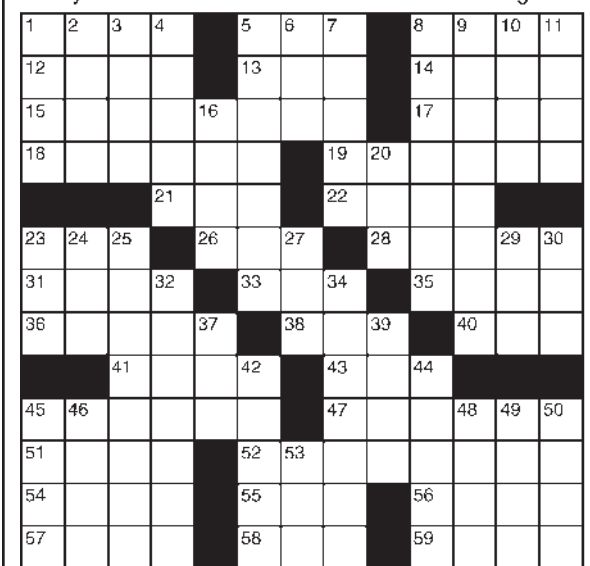
38 Third degree?  
40 Moon craft  
41 Stepped (on)  
43 Thing, in law  
45 Meager  
47 Aviatrix Earhart  
51 Jason's ship  
52 Profession  
54 Quartet  
55 Salt Lake athlete  
56 Garfield's pal  
57 Salamanders  
58 Petrol  
59 — -lat-lat

**2** Sulk  
**3** Cold War nation (Abbr.)  
**4** Attack  
**5** Popeye's "fuel"  
**6** A billion years  
**7** Twice 54-Across  
**8** Fat  
**9** "Sex and the City" writer  
**10** Not working  
**11** Adolescent  
**16** Old Italian money  
**20** Thee  
**23** Supporting  
**24** Rd.  
**25** Laugh so hard it hurts  
**27** Upper surface  
**29** Guitar's cousin  
**30** Nonstick spray  
**32** Kaleidoscope  
**34** Groups of words  
**37** Ph. bk. info  
**39** Ms. Moore  
**42** Clean, as software  
**44** Man of La Mancha  
**45** Protected  
**46** College teacher, often  
**48** Mother of Castor and Pollux  
**49** "— an earthquake, or ..."  
**50** Cruising  
**53** Actress Hagen

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

M	O	T	H	B	A	D	C	O	P	S
A	U	R	A	E	V	E	R	A	I	N
C	H	O	S	S	B	O	W	O	I	T
E	S	T	L	O	W	P	S	H	A	W
E	M	E	R	Y	W	A	T	T	L	E
L	I	M	O	V	A	N	I	O	T	A
F	L	U	S	T	E	R	O	R	G	A
S	P	A	W	N	F	L	U	O	F	T
L	O	G	O	C	R	O	S	S	B	A
A	C	E	R	D	A	F	H	E	R	O
T	O	D	D	O	I	T	E	Y	E	D

**Yesterday's answer 3-28**



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Lady Gaga, 26; Julia Stiles, 31; Vince Vaughn, 42; Reba McEntire, 57.

**Happy Birthday:** You'll have good ideas, but you must be patient to put your plans in motion. Time and thought must be given to whatever steps you take, especially if your personal life will be altered in any way. Keep everything out in the open to avoid unnecessary opposition and accusations that you are being secretive. Your numbers are 8, 10, 24, 28, 31, 40, 43.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Anxiety is no reason to rush a project, relationship or anything else. Mistakes are made when you don't take the time to think scenarios out to the end before you proceed. Think, plan and make your next move count. \*\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You need to get out more. Enjoy the company of people who have something to offer. Put any regrets behind you and forget about what you cannot have. Focus on the present and what you can achieve. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Listen, but don't respond to a threat, pressure or anyone trying to push you into something you don't want to do. Emotions will be difficult to control, and disagreements will swell up quickly if you leave yourself in a vulnerable position. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Concentrate on doing a good job and researching something that interests you. Don't allow a burden to dampen your day or your plans. Work quickly and efficiently in order to clear time to enjoy friends, family or your lover late in the day. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Get involved in something you feel needs reform. Your suggestions will attract attention and bring about change. An opportunity to travel or to communicate with someone special will lead to an interesting proposition. Prepare to make a move. \*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Practicality will be required, especially if someone is giving you a hard time. Focus on you, your talent and your ability to get things done properly. It will be difficult to criticize what you do if you strive for perfection. \*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Avoid anyone putting pressure on you. Do what you can, but don't feel guilty if someone complains. Change may be required in the way you treat business or personal partners in order to maintain equality in the relationship. \*\*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Put more into your home, family and future prospects. Get your game plan in order. Partner with someone willing to contribute as much as you and you will create an opportunity that demands what you have to offer. Love is in the stars. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't believe everything you hear. Confusing directions will lead you astray if you don't ask for help. The mistake you make will be trying to impress someone by exaggerating what you know or what you are capable of doing. \*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Do whatever it takes to improve your financial situation. Size down, invest wisely or join forces with someone you love in order to bring about a better lifestyle. Now is the time to consider your options and strive for improvement. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Home is where the heart is, and it will keep you safe, happy and in tune with the people you love most. Consider past goals and you will come up with a way to pursue a dream that will bring you satisfaction now. \*\*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Emotions will escalate if matters of controversy enter the conversation. Put more effort into your personal and professional goals rather than getting involved in an argument you cannot win. Love is highlighted. \*\*

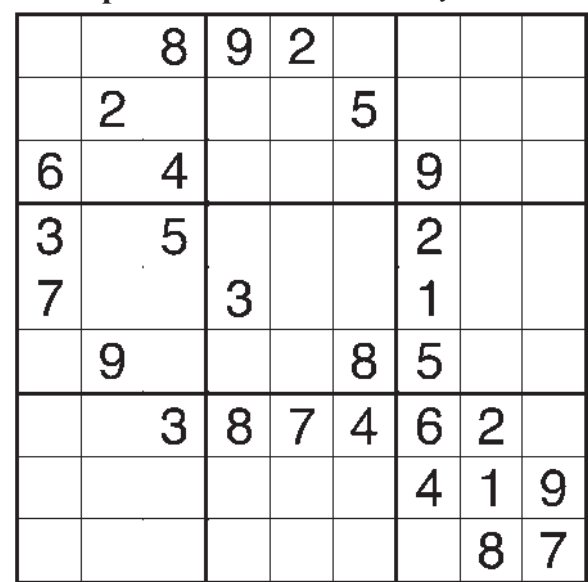
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## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

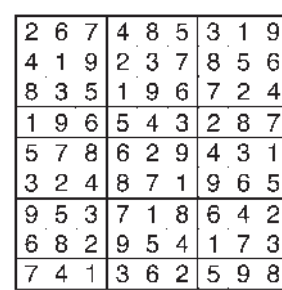


Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ANDREW BRITBART (1969-2012)

Solution: 7 letters

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**Yesterday's Answer: Bullpens**  
The NEW Treasury Secretary, Andrew B. Gensler, was named on March 27, 2012. He is the first openly gay man to be appointed to a senior position in the U.S. Treasury. He is also the first openly gay man to be appointed to a senior position in the U.S. Treasury. He is also the first openly gay man to be appointed to a senior position in the U.S. Treasury.



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WHATZIT Solution:  
Break ranks

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### (5) WAITRESS

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- A) At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- B) Has at least 2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business.
- C) Full Time with flexible working hours.
- D) Salary: \$5.05/hr
- E) Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.

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Saipan, MP 96950  
or contact our Office at  
Tel. (670) 233-1545  
between 2:30PM - 9:00PM

## JAPAN ENTERPRISES CORPORATION JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

### (5) WAITRESS

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- A) At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- B) Has at least 2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business.
- C) Full Time with flexible working hours.
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to PMB 697 Box 10000,  
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# Granger scores 25 as Pacers beat Heat, 105-90



**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)**—Danny Granger scored 25 points to help the Indiana Pacers beat the Miami Heat 105-90 on Monday night.

Darren Collison added 20 points, and Paul George had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Pacers, who have won four of five and finally got the signature win they have sought since the All-Star break.

LeBron James had 24 points and nine rebounds, and Dwyane Wade had 24 points and six assists for Miami.

The Heat, coming off a 103-87 loss at Oklahoma City on Sunday night, lost by double digits in back-to-back games for the first time this season. Miami (35-13) lost for the fourth time in eight games overall and is running out of time to catch Chicago (40-10) for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

The Heat had won the previous three meetings this season, but the Pacers played with confidence throughout. Indiana led by double digits for most of the fourth quarter, and Pacers fans stood and showed their appreciation during the final minute.

The Pacers closed the first half out in style. First, Indiana center Roy Hibbert dunked on James with a minute left in the half, then George hit a half-court shot at the buzzer to give the Pacers a 49-46 lead at the break.

James had 16 points and six rebounds in the first half, but his teammates struggled.

A two-handed breakaway jam by Collison early in the third pushed Indiana's lead to 53-46 and forced Miami to call a timeout. George hit a 3-pointer to push the lead to double digits for the first time. The Pacers held Miami scoreless for the first 3 minutes of the second half.

James scored and was fouled, missed the free throw, tracked down the rebound and made a jumper to cut Indiana's lead to 59-55. Wade followed with a 3-pointer, and suddenly, Indiana's 10-point lead was down to one.

But the Pacers responded quickly. Hibbert stuffed James, and Granger hit a jumper at the other end to give Indiana a 67-60 lead and force another Miami timeout. Granger's 3-pointer gave Indiana a 71-60 lead. The Pacers held Miami to 6-for-19 shooting in the third quarter to lead 78-65 at the end of the period.

James rested at the start of the fourth quarter, leaving Wade and Chris Bosh to try to close the gap. But two 3s by Indiana's Leandro Barbosa early in the period helped the Pacers maintain some distance. A three-point play by Barbosa gave the Pacers an 87-73 edge. Barbosa scored nine points in 98 seconds and forced the Heat to put James back into the game.

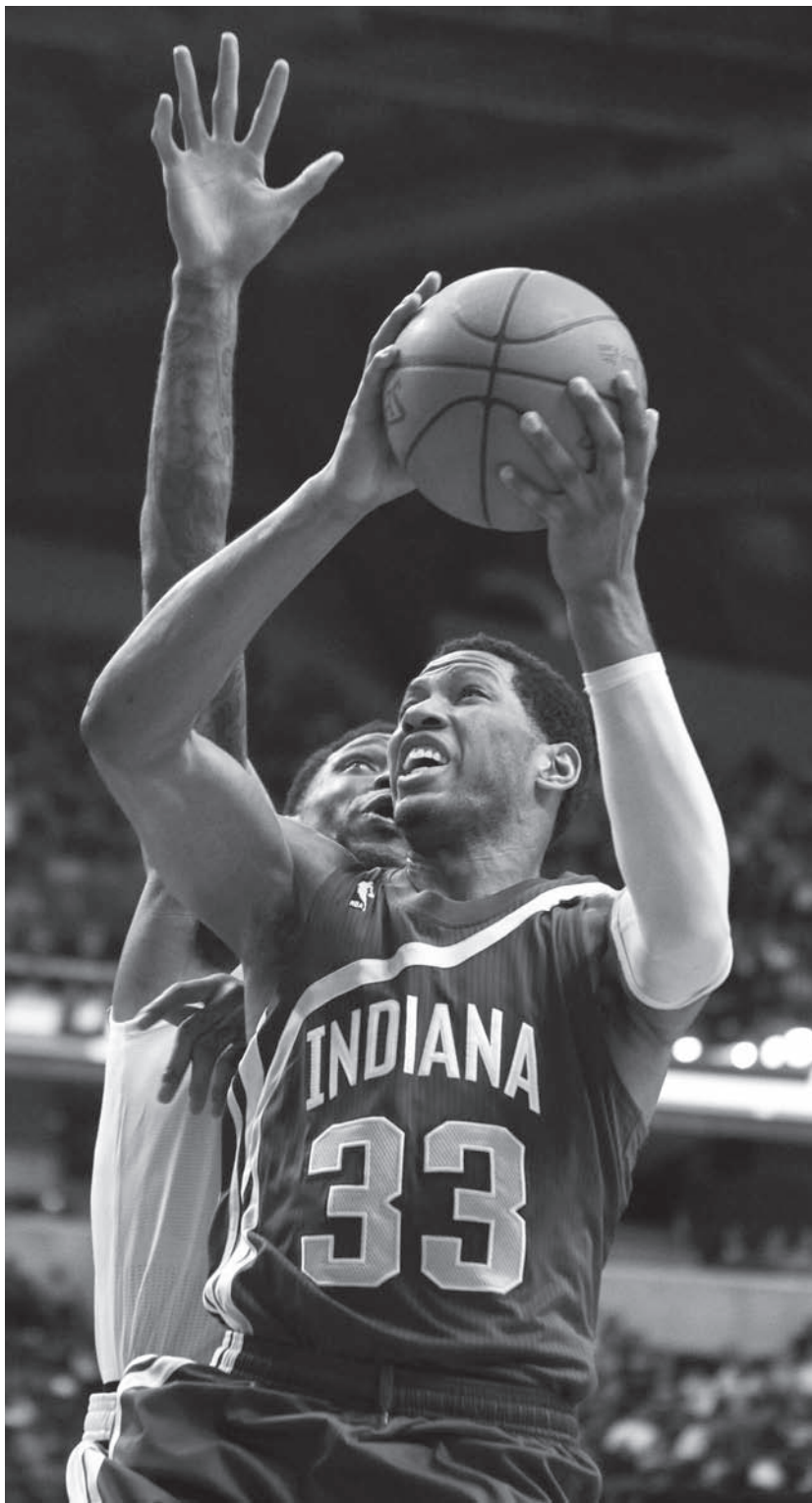
Indiana remained comfortably ahead the rest of the way. Granger was fouled on a 3-point attempt and made all three free throws to push Indiana's lead to 99-87 with 4:30 to play.

## Clippers 97, Hornets 85

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul had 25 points and 10 assists against his former team.

The Hornets first tried to trade Paul to the Lakers—a deal that was rejected by the league—before shipping the All-Star point guard to the Clippers shortly after the lockout ended.

Blake Griffin added 20 points and seven rebounds to help the Clippers



Indiana Pacers forward Danny Granger (33) shoots in front of Miami Heat forward Udonis Haslem in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Monday, March 26, 2012.

climb within two games of the Pacific Division-leading Lakers.

Al-Farouq Aminu scored 15 points, and Carl Landry added 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets, who didn't have a player in double digits until Landry's two free throws trimmed Los Angeles' lead to 66-52 with 2:21 left in the third quarter.

New Orleans committed a season-high 29 turnovers, leading to 35 points for the Clippers.

## Rockets 113, Kings 106, OT

In Houston, Patrick Patterson scored a career-high 24 points and Earl Boykins hit four free throws for Houston late in overtime to lead the Rockets to a win over the Sacramento Kings.

Boykins, who was signed by Houston earlier in the day, finished with 10 points in his first action of the season.

Houston built a 107-102 lead in overtime behind four points from Chandler Parsons. Tyreke Evans got Sacramento within three with a layup with 29 seconds left.

Boykins hit two free throws with 21 seconds left and two more 7 seconds later to secure the win.

DeMarcus Cousins scored a career-high 38 points and had 14 rebounds, and Marcus Thornton added 27 points

for the Kings, who lost their fifth straight road game. They are an NBA-worst 4-22 on the road this season.

## Nuggets 108, Bulls 91

In Chicago, Ty Lawson tied a season high with 27 points, Arron Afflalo added 22 and the Denver Nuggets shot 50 percent to beat the Chicago Bulls.

Denver, playing its third game in four nights as part of a seven-game road swing, got its first win three games into the trip. Al Harrington added 17 points and Andre Miller chipped in with 12 points and 10 assists for the Nuggets, who are scrapping for a playoff spot in the West.

C.J. Watson and John Lucas III scored 17 points each for the Bulls. Chicago star Derrick Rose sat out his seventh straight game with a groin injury and the Bulls seemed to be out of sync most of the night, especially on defense.

## Celtics 102, Bobcats 95

In Charlotte, N.C., Paul Pierce scored a season-high 36 points and Boston moved into a first-place tie with Philadelphia 76ers in the Atlantic Division.

Pierce shot 10 of 20 from the field, made 15 of 18 free throws and added 10 rebounds and four assists.

Pierce has scored 20 or more points

in five of the past six games and is averaging 22.3 points per game during March.

Kevin Garnett had 24 points for the Celtics.

Gerald Henderson had 21 points for the Bobcats (7-40), who have lost six of their past seven and remain the only team in the NBA with fewer than 10 wins. Charlotte got 59 points from its bench, including 18 from Byron Mullens and 16 from Derrick Brown.

The Celtics have the same record (27-22) as the 76ers with 17 games remaining in the regular season.

## Knicks 89, Bucks 80

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 28 points, delivering his highest total in two months without the injured Amare Stoudemire and Jeremy Lin, and the New York Knicks beat the Milwaukee Bucks to increase their lead for the final Eastern Conference playoff berth.

Shortly after learning Stoudemire was lost indefinitely with a bulging disk in his back, the Knicks opened a 2 1/2-game lead over the Bucks and prevented Milwaukee from winning the season series and clinching the tiebreaker if they finish with the same record.

Baron Davis scored 13 points in his first start in place of Lin, who has a sore right knee. Tyson Chandler also had 13 and Iman Shumpert 11.

Mike Dunleavy scored 26 points for the Bucks.

## Jazz 105, Nets 84

In Newark, N.J., Paul Millsap had 24 points and 13 rebounds and the Utah Jazz shook off the weariness from their four-overtime loss 24 hours earlier.

Al Jefferson added 19 points and eight rebounds as the Jazz won for the seventh time in eight games and kept a hold on one of the last playoff spots in the Western Conference.

Alec Burks added 15 points for the Jazz, who used an 18-4 fourth-quarter run to lock up the game after New Jersey cut a 21-point deficit to three.

Gerald Green led the Nets with 20 points. Deron Williams added 17 points and 11 assists against his former teammates on 7 of 21 shooting. Rookie Jordan Williams added a career-high 13 points.

## Pistons 79, Wizards 77

In Washington, Rodney Stuckey scored half of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, including the winning 20-foot jumper with 0.2 seconds left, and Detroit ended a five-game losing streak by erasing a 13-point deficit.

Detroit managed to win despite being held below 80 points for the third game in a row; that last happened to the Pistons in December 2003.

Greg Monroe, who played home games on the Wizards' court while at Georgetown, had 10 points and 10 rebounds, including a putback off a miss by Tayshaun Prince with 23 seconds remaining to put Detroit ahead 76-75. After Detroit's Ben Wallace made one free throw, Washington's Nene tied it at 77 on a hook shot with 5.8 seconds to go.

That left enough time for Stuckey to get up court and pull up for the decisive shot that capped a comeback against the no-lead-is-safe Wizards. Stuckey missed the past three games with a sore big left toe.

Jordan Crawford led Washington with 20 points, and John Wall had 14

points, nine assists and seven rebounds. But Wall also went scoreless in the fourth quarter.

## Magic 117, Raptors 101

In Toronto, Ryan Anderson made a career-best eight 3-pointers and finished with 28 points.

Dwight Howard had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Jameer Nelson scored 18 points for the Magic.

Orlando came in leading the NBA in 3-pointers and hit 15 of 34 from beyond the arc in this one, two shy of its season high.

Orlando made 17 3-pointers twice this season, first at New York on Jan. 16 and also against Miami on Feb. 8.

## Duke's Rivers declares for draft, hiring agent

**DURHAM, N.C. (AP)**—Austin Rivers is leaving Duke after one season for the NBA draft.

The freshman guard announced his decision and plans to hire an agent on Monday after team officials said he spent the weekend discussing his future plans with his family at their home outside Orlando, Fla.

"Duke has prepared me for the challenges that are ahead both on and off the court," Rivers said in a statement issued by the school. "I have learned so much from the coaching staff and my teammates that will help me succeed at the next level."

The son of Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers averaged a team-leading 15.5 points and was a unanimous selection as the Atlantic Coast Conference's rookie of the year. He's just the third Duke freshman to lead the team in scoring after Johnny Dawkins in 1983 and Bill Sapp in 1945.

"Austin had a terrific year as a freshman and has put himself in a position to pursue his dream of being a great player in the NBA," coach Mike Krzyzewski said, adding that he supports the decision. "We look forward to watching him continue to develop and excel at the next level."

The top highlight of Rivers' only college season was a buzzer-beating 3-pointer last month that gave Duke an 85-84 victory at North Carolina. He scored a season-high 29 points in that game.

He's the fourth player to leave Duke after one season and the second one-and-done guard in two years after Cleveland made Kyrie Irving the No. 1 overall pick of last year's draft. The others are Corey Maggette in 1999 and Luol Deng in 2004.

Doc Rivers, speaking to reporters in Charlotte before the Celtics' game against the Bobcats on Monday night—before his son's decision was made public—said he thought his choice would be a good one no matter what he decided to do.

"Listen, going to the NBA if you're going to get drafted in the first round, that's good," Doc Rivers said. "Going back to Duke, that's good. So I don't know if you have a bad choice."



# Goodell might let Payton coach during appeal

By **BRETT MARTEL**  
AP SPORTS WRITER

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell might allow Sean Payton to coach the Saints while he appeals his season-long suspension for his role in the team's bounties program.

"I said in a letter they have to appeal by April 2, I believe," Goodell said Monday at the owners meetings in Palm Beach, Fla. "If he decides to appeal, I probably will allow him to continue and I would expedite the hearing and I would expedite my decision."

"We did meet twice and went through the information. If he has something else for me to consider, I will."

Payton's agent, Donald Yee, said "no decisions have been made about an appeal" by his client.

"Sean fully supports the league's player safety goals," Yee said. "Given this, he probably won't address the entire league" when he arrives at the owners meetings.

Saints spokesman Greg Bensel said Payton was expected to speak later this week at the meetings. NFC coaches are scheduled to meet the media Wednesday morning. Payton has not addressed the media since the suspension, but has issued two written statements apologizing for the bounty system.

Goodell also is waiting for recommendations from the players' union before punishing any players for participating in the three-year bounty system that targeted opponents for big hits. He

has discussed the bounties with NFLPA leader DeMaurice Smith.

Goodell added the league approached the Saints before their playoff game with the Lions in January and warned them to make sure the bounties had ceased. He sent Jeff Pash, the NFL's lead counsel, and Jeffrey Miller, its director of security, to speak with owner Tom Benson.

"The point was to make it clear we had new and credible info and he should make it extremely clear with the game the next day there should be no bounty system in place," Goodell said.

Asked if Payton's punishment was as much for lying to him as it was for the actual bounties program, Goodell told a packed news conference about a pattern of untruths.

"This is a violation of a very serious rule," Goodell said. "We have made player health and safety very clear as a priority. During the process of when this first was raised two years ago, there were denials. They were not forthright and that continued through our investigation."

"This is something with zero tolerance and is not acceptable."

The league's investigation is continuing, Goodell added.

"We will continue to follow on any information we have," he said, "and will look for violations. If we get info, we will follow on it."

"Let's be clear. We discussed it with the clubs today and I think it is fair to say non-contract bonus payments were happening around the league ... and that'll discontinue."



In this Feb. 7, 2010 file photo, New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton, left, celebrates after winning the NFL Super Bowl XLIV football game in Miami.

Goodell said the Saints are free to go outside the organization to hire a coach. Payton's assistant head coach is Joe Vitt, who was given a six-game suspension, while general manager Mickey Loomis received eight games. The team was fined \$500,000 and lost second-round draft picks this year and next.

Gregg Williams, who as Saints defensive coordinator oversaw the bounty pool, has been suspended indefinitely. He left New Orleans for the same coaching position in St. Louis earlier this year.

Benson continues to back both Loomis and Payton, a person familiar with the situation has told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Saints have made no announcements about Payton's future.

Bill Parcells said Monday he has not been approached about becoming interim coach of the Saints, but he has spoken to Payton about how to handle the season. The coach who led the New

York Giants to two Super Bowl victories is a mentor to Payton, and hired Payton as an offensive assistant in Dallas in 2003.

Goodell termed "inaccurate" reports that one player turned in the Saints in the bounties investigation.

"You're assuming it's a player," he said. "We have several sources on this. We're not disclosing who are sources are."

Meanwhile, new lines of black-and-gold T-shirts which read "Free Sean Payton," and "Free Payton," have hit stores in New Orleans. They are reminiscent of the "Free Edwin Edwards" T-shirts that came out after the popular former governor was convicted in a federal gambling corruption probe.

Players, too, have expressed support for their embattled coach. Starting right tackle Zach Strief has said the Saints owe it to Payton to live up to the standards he has set and win in his honor.

"This season is going to take on an us-versus-the-world mentality," Strief said last week. "This team is going to come together closer than it has ever been and I think that we all feel like we have something to prove. We're going to do our best to make this situation into a positive one."

Should the Saints decide against going outside of the organization to find an interim coach, there are several candidates among current assistants to fill that role. They include offensive coordinator Pete Carmichael Jr., defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo and offensive line coach Aaron Kromer.

Spagnuolo is a former head coach, while Carmichael, who called the Saints' offensive plays for much of last season, and Kromer, who has overseen one of the top offensive lines in the league, both have drawn interest in the past year from other teams looking for head coaching candidates.

## Kickoff rule reduced concussions

**PALM BEACH, Fla.** (AP) — Moving kickoffs up 5 yards last season did exactly what the NFL sought, reducing concussions.

"The kickoff rule had an effect on the game," said Rich McKay, chairman of the league's competition committee. "There was a 40 percent reduction in concussions on that play."

The league repeatedly has said the change to kicking off from the 35-yard line was done solely for player safety. McKay said Monday at the owners meetings it served that purpose.

But he admitted surprise that total kickoff returns dropped 53 percent.

For all plays, concussions were down 12.5 percent, from 218 in 321 games in 2010 to 190 in 320 games last season. There was no Hall of Fame game last year because of the lockout.

Owners will vote this week to enhance player safety by outlawing horse-collar tackles on passers in the pocket, a proposal made by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"There was a lot of talk about quarterback injuries," he said. "We watched every play where the quarterback was hurt. We looked at every roughing-the-passer penalty, 100-plus, and we were comfortable that the quarterback is being protected adequately."

Owners will consider expanding protection of defenseless players to those who are hit by crackback blocks. The proposal calls for outlawing contact to the head area or being blocked by an opponent headfirst.

"We saw some hits we wanted to make sure that players changed their hit points on," McKay said.

McKay believes players and coaches are more comfortable now about adopting the postseason overtime rule requiring a team losing the coin toss to get a possession if the opponent kicks a field goal on the first series. That rule was passed in 2010, but has had no impact on a playoff game yet.

Originally, the committee believed it was easier to get the change adopted just for playoff games and the Super Bowl because "there was a distinction. In the postseason, you lose and you go home," McKay said. Now, the owners will vote on Pittsburgh's proposal to use the same system in the regular season.

The Steelers would have benefited years ago from a change in the injured reserve rules being considered. A player hurt in preseason or the first week of the schedule could be designated to return to practice after six weeks and play after eight weeks rather than sit out the entire season. The idea is to keep marquee players who get hurt early available to return late in the season.

In 1995, Pittsburgh kept star defensive back Rod Woodson on the active roster after a major knee injury. Woodson came back to play in a Super Bowl loss to Dallas.

"Why not give that narrow flexibility?" McKay said. "We sent a survey to the teams and they wanted it very much."

Instant replay also could see two significant changes: booth replay officials reviewing plays rather than referees, and all turnovers being reviewed just as all scoring plays currently are reviewed.

## Sanchez: I'm not threatened by Jets adding Tebow

**FLORHAM PARK, N.J.** (AP)—Mark Sanchez understands all the hoopla surrounding Tim Tebow. None of it worries the New York Jets quarterback.

Hours after the Jets introduced Tebow at a huge news conference at the team's headquarters, Sanchez spoke for the first time since New York acquired the popular backup quarterback from Denver last Wednesday.

"We're adding another player and were not replacing anybody," Sanchez said during a conference call from California. "I mean, he's here to help us and I'm confident in my abilities. I know the team feels the same way about me. They have belief in me. ... I'm not worried about losing my spot."

Sanchez didn't watch Tebow's big intro to the Big Apple. Instead, he said, he was working out and throwing.

"I heard he did a pretty good job," Sanchez said. "How did he do?"

Well, Tebow handled himself with the poise and confidence of a guy familiar with the spotlight.

The Jets have repeatedly said San-

chez is the No. 1 quarterback, while Tebow will serve as the backup and see plenty of playing time in various roles. Sanchez, who recently signed a three-year contract extension, doesn't think it will be a distraction to have the popular quarterback on the team. He also brushed off the speculation that fans could call for Tebow as soon as he struggles.

"That stuff happens whether you're Tim Tebow or not," Sanchez said. "They call for the backup any time you're not playing to your potential, so that's just part of the job if you're not playing well."

After leading the Jets to consecutive AFC title games his first two seasons, Sanchez didn't progress as much as many expected in 2011 and finished with as many touchdown passes as turnovers: 26. His leadership skills and confidence were called into question by teammates quoted anonymously in newspaper reports.

New York flirted with the idea of going after Peyton Manning until it was

clear there wasn't mutual interest. Manning landed in Denver, and the Broncos traded Tebow to the Jets. It was a move the front office didn't run by Sanchez - the face of the franchise.

"You know, I find it's difficult enough to play quarterback in the league," he said. "That's out of my wheelhouse."

Sanchez hosted Tebow on his recruiting trip to Southern California a few years ago, and they've been friends since. He thinks that, plus the fact Tebow will be able to "add a new wrinkle to our offense," makes the move a "plus for us."

Tebow is expected to run the Jets' wildcat offense, as well as serve in other roles. Sanchez isn't high on the wildcat because it means he's usually off the field when it's run, but he insists he's OK with whatever the team wants.

"That's just how I'm programmed and any quarterback is programmed like that," Sanchez said. "The way I feel about the wildcat really is secondary. Our team goal is what's the most important, and that's winning."



# Pacquiao calls Philippine tax complaint harassment



**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Manny Pacquiao described a criminal complaint against him by the Philippine tax bureau as “plain and simple harassment,” adding Monday that he has never shortchanged the government.

The WBO welterweight champion who has won world titles in eight divisions and is now a Philippine congressman

dismissed speculation that he may follow boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. to prison, saying “I would rather see him inside the ring, not in a jail.”

Mayweather is due to serve a 90-day jail sentence in a domestic violence case in Nevada, starting in June. He and Pacquiao have been unable to agree on terms for a fight.

Pacquiao was slapped with a criminal complaint for allegedly failing to submit tax documents.

Prosecutors haven’t decided if there is enough evidence for a court case. Pacquiao could face up to two years in prison if convicted.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares said last week that Pacquiao and his representatives were given many chances to submit the documents but failed to do so, prompting the filing of what can be likened to a contempt complaint.

She said there was a significant drop in Pacquiao’s tax payment in 2010 from a year earlier, and her bureau is trying to find out if he paid the correct taxes.

Even if he paid taxes in the United States, where he had fought several times, he still needed to report those payments and submit documents to the Philippine tax bureau, Henares said.

“Over the years as a boxer, a product endorser and business-

man, I have not shortchanged the government for what it is due,” Pacquiao said.

He lamented that tax officials “did not even bother to wait a few days after my fight to give me the letter,” even when “the world knew I was fighting for the country’s glory in the United States.”

Pacquiao is scheduled to fight Timothy Bradley Jr. at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas on June 9.

## Jones Sr. wins Amigos March Ace tournament

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Ben Jones Sr. was declared the Amigos Golf Club Association’s Ace of the Month for March after the conclusion of the group’s second and final round held last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf

Links in Talafofo.

Jones Sr. started out tied for second place with his son Ben Jones Jr. and Joe Sablan Jr. during the qualifying round held last March 11 also at Kingfisher.

After the handicap adjustments the trio finished with 69 net scores, two strokes behind early leader Doll Yamagishi.

Jones Sr. improved his game

by four strokes on Sunday, finishing his second round with a raw total of 79 that worked into a 65 net tally for a field-low combined net count of 134.

Frank Sablan posted a 76 net card in the qualifier and stepped up his game on Sunday with a 68 net score to tie Lorraine Babauta and Larry Hocog with matching combined net totals of 144.



Jones

Babauta qualified with a net-77 and scratched a 67 net score on Sunday, while Hocog started out with a 74 and turned in an even 70-net card in the second round.

Notably, Yamagishi and Sa-

blan Jr. both finished in second place after Sunday’s round with combined net scores of 140, but excused themselves from the running for already being hailed as ace golfers in previous months.

Other notables include Felix Sasamoto’s 146 (72/74), Frank Guerrero (73/76) and Diding Hocog’s 149 (74/75), and John Matsumoto’s 153 (78/75). A total of 12 golfers participated in both events.

## OL’ACES

From Page 28

Winning pitcher Terson Eina went all seven innings and gave up two earned runs off six hits and two walks with six strikeouts.

### Jets II 12, Jets I 6

Jets II assumed control, 5-3, in the first inning off three hits and three walks. Jeremy Lizama busted a two-RBI double, Shane Deleon Guerrero lifted a sacrifice fly, and the other run came home off a wild pitch.

Jets II was then gifted another run in the second frame off an error and Deleon Guerrero was beamed in the third and later stole home to put his team in front, 7-3, after three innings.

Both teams sprinkled runs in the fourth, fifth, and sixth frames before Jets II nailed in the coffin with two more runs in the seventh before squeezing the final three outs.

### Hunters 16, Fielders 10

The Fielders led it, 4-3, after the opening frame despite being out-hit, 4-1.

Fielders’ Ian Rogolifoi then blasted a solo shot with two outs in the second inning, however the Hunters fired back to tie the game at 5-all in the bottom frame off a sacrifice fly and an RBI base smash by Nathan Sablan.

The count shifted to 10-apiece in the third innings as both teams racked up five runs.

Fielders’ Gayvan Uchau cranked an RBI double, James Aldan an RBI triple, and Poland Masaharu bagged an RBI single in the top frame, while Hunters’ Jerome Reyes and Steven Cabrera bashed RBI base hits followed by an RBI double from Alex Monkeya and a two-RBI single by Sablan.

Hunters’ Cabrera was tapped to replace starting pitcher Monkeya at the start of the fourth and shut down his opponents in the late innings, enabling the Hunters to take the win.

They pulled ahead, 12-10, in the fourth inning off errors and a triple by Jonathan Cabrera and added another in the fifth from an RBI single by Ty Deleon Guerrero; the group went on to add three more insurance runs in the sixth before closing the last three outs.

Monkeya batted 3-for-3 with three RBIs and three runs. Sablan batted 4-for-4 with three RBIs, a run, and a base on balls.

Winning pitcher Cabrera pitched four shutout innings and gave up only a couple of hits and a strikeout.

### Falcons 13, D-9ers 3

Falcons assumed control in the first inning, 3-1, off a pair of RBI singles by Frankie Lieto and Ray Ray Saralu and never looked back.

They added another run in the second from an error and three more runs in the fourth off some more errors and an RBI base rip by Lieto.

The D-9ers managed two

runs in the top of the fifth, but the Falcons obliged with three runs in the bottom frame off three hits. Haini Blas belted a triple and Saralu bagged another RBI single.

Falcons’ Jose Lizama came to the mound to start the sixth inning and kept the D-9ers at bay before his teammates accrued the three runs needed for the early decision.

Winning pitcher Frankie Norita allowed one earned run off six hits and two walks with four strikeouts in five innings.

Saralu batted 3-for-4 with two RBIs. Lieto went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, three runs, and a base on balls. Blas batted 2-for-3 with three runs and a base on ball. D-9ers’ Gino Dela Cruz swung 3-for-3 in the loss.

## BIG LEAGUE

### Ol’Aces 14, Lions 6

Ol’Aces tacked on three runs in the each of the first two innings for an early 6-1 lead. Harry Nakamura hammered a two-RBI double in the first in-

ning and belted an RBI single in the second. Lemarc Iguel also bagged an RBI single in the second inning.

Lions’ Richard Dela Cruz busted an RBI triple and was sacrificed home to briefly halve the deficit in the top half of the third, but the count soon shifted to 12-6 after five frames.

Ol’Aces added two runs off errors and a fielder’s choice in the fourth before gashing the pride for four more runs in the fifth inning off three hits and a couple of walks. Rocco Reyes ripped a two-RBI single.

Ol’Aces’ Leonard Sablan then came to the mound at the start of the fifth and went on to secure the close.

Winning pitcher Jake Santos gave up four earned runs off six hits and two walks with a strikeout in four innings.

Nakamura went 3-for-3 with three RBIs, three runs, and two base on balls. Iguel batted 3-for-4 with an RBI, three runs, and a base on balls.

### First Game

**Mobil 69** – Ruloked 17, Estolas 13, Demapan 10, Fernando 8, Moises 6, Reyes 5, Bicara 4, Factor 2, Mallari 2, Galzote 2.

**Andhok’s Grille 67** – Wesley 16, Capalad 14, Olaitiman 10, De Guzman 9, Libuw 8, Castro 4, Umali 4, Camacho 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 12-21, 27-39, 53-53, 69-67.

### Second Game

**Mobil 75** – Estolas 34, Demapan 13, Ruloked 9, Moises 4, Fernando 4, Factor 4, Bicara 4, Dayrit 1.

**Shirley’s 65** – Barrios 15, Berline 14, Gabaldon 12, Diaz 8, Montgomery 5, Lang 3, Petersberg 3, Ito 3, Tomokane 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-23, 38-37, 54-51, 76-65.

a walk and two bean balls with six strikeouts.

The season continues at 6:30pm tonight on Tan Ko Field with the Fielders taking on the San Roque Yankees.

## MOBIL

From Page 28

playoffs, while a loss could create a three-way tie for the top spot with the Sunrisers (7-2) and Mobil. Besides its game against Mobil (entire overtime period), Blue Haus is scheduled to play Shirley’s in another make-up tiff tonight.

Shirley’s, which fell to a 3-5 record, must win its last game to advance to the next round and leave Andhok’s (3-6), Hite Beer (3-6), and SCS Heavy Equipment (3-5) to battle for the last two playoff tickets. With Andhok’s and Hite Beer done with their regular season assignments, they have to wait for the SCS-Crystal Pure (4-4) game

this Friday to determine their playoff chances.

An SCS win and Shirley’s loss will create a four-way tie for the last three playoff seats and organizers will implement a quotient system (points totaled in head-to-heads) to select the playoff qualifier (Top 3 in points system).

Andhok’s had a chance to advance to the next round outright when it controlled the first half of the match that was halted at the 4:11 mark of the second period on Feb. 27. Andhok’s was on top, 30-25, when the game was rained-out and when it resumed, the lead ballooned to double digits at the break, 39-27. However, in the second half Andhok’s collapsed and committed costly

errors in the closing minutes to hand Mobil the win.

Gino Libuw was called for a traveling violation on his way for a layup that could have tied the game at 65-all. After the error, Gyles Ruloked made a baseline basket to give Mobil cushion, 67-63, and then stole Mike Umali’s crosscourt pass to return possession to Mobil.

Andhok’s Raymark Castro then gave up a late foul with only 27 seconds left, sending Jun Estolas to the foul line where he split his charities. Down by five, 63-68, Andhok’s refused to give up with White Capalad escaping with a layup and Tim Wesley nailing an undergoal stab after two botched Mobil plays to cut the lead to one, 67-68, 5.5 ticks to go.

stole the win.

Kaipat and John Reyes drew leadoff walks, which set up a pair of clutch RBI singles by Pete Tomokane and Timothy Cruz; the latter played the hero

on a fielder’s choice and scored off an error up the middle to put his team three outs away from the win, but the Angels’ top of the order fired back in the bottom half of the 10th inning and

## ANGELS

From Page 28

into an extra inning.

Brewers’ Darren Pua reached

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	27	22	.551	—
Boston	27	22	.551	—
New York	25	25	.500	2 1/2
Toronto	16	34	.320	11 1/2
New Jersey	16	35	.314	12

#### Southeast Division

Miami	35	13	.729	—
Orlando	32	18	.640	4
Atlanta	30	20	.600	6
Washington	11	38	.224	24 1/2
Charlotte	7	40	.149	27 1/2

#### Central Division

x-Chicago	40	11	.784	—
Indiana	29	19	.604	9 1/2
Milwaukee	22	27	.449	17
Cleveland	17	29	.370	20 1/2
Detroit	17	32	.347	22

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
San Antonio	33	14	.702	—
Dallas	28	22	.560	6 1/2
Memphis	26	21	.553	7
Houston	27	23	.540	7 1/2
New Orleans	12	37	.245	22

#### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	37	12	.755	—
Utah	27	23	.540	10 1/2
Denver	27	23	.540	10 1/2
Minnesota	24	26	.480	13 1/2
Portland	23	26	.469	14

#### Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	30	19	.612	—
L.A. Clippers	28	21	.571	2
Phoenix	25	24	.510	5
Golden State	20	27	.426	9
Sacramento	17	32	.347	13

#### x-clinched playoff spot

#### Yesterday’s Games

Boston 102, Charlotte 95  
Indiana 105, Miami 90  
Orlando 117, Toronto 101  
Detroit 79, Washington 77  
Utah 105, New Jersey 84  
New York 89, Milwaukee 80  
Denver 108, Chicago 91  
Houston 113, Sacramento 106, OT  
L.A. Clippers 97, New Orleans 85

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## YOUNGEST

From Page 28

ing some time in the final phase of the race, Toda was still the first XTERRA Sport participant to cross the finish line.

He was more than five minutes ahead of No. 2 overall finisher John Arceo, who timed in at 2:22:35. Arceo, who had split times of 14:46 (swim), 1:45:12 (bike) and 22:27 (run), ruled the 45 to 49 age group, beating fellow Saipan bet Tim Goodwin (2:31:15/third overall) and Derek Chambers (2:51:20).

Ketson “Jack” Kabiriel came in fourth overall (2:35:49) and won the 35 to 39 age group, while another Saipan participant—Jeffrey Diyo—placed fifth (2:36:50) and prevailed in the 40 to 44 category. Other age group winners were Charlie Sendin (2:51:33/30 to 34) and Paul Plunkett (2:43:39/50 to 54).

In the women’s division, Saipan’s Susan Marchitti was the fastest with her 3:07:03, just 17 second ahead of fellow Saipan triathlete Eileen Escudero (3:07:20). Japan’s Junko Tachikura finished third overall with her (3:52:59). Marchitti recorded 20:02 in the swim leg and 2:16:37 and 30:24 in the bike and run, respectively, to gain top honors in the 50 to 54 age group. Escudero had split times of 13:59, 2:29:37, and 23:44 for the 40 to 44 division, while Tachikura submitted 23:06, 2:57:46, and 32:07 for the 60 to 64 category.

Meanwhile, results for the XTERRA Sports and Championship relays will be released in *Saipan Tribune’s* Thursday edition.



# Bike Leg of XTERRA Saipan Championship

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara heads down Navy Hill after a brutal climb up Mt. Tapochao.



United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack smiles for the camera as she heads to Mt. Tapochao.



Australia's Ben Allen cruises along a downhill coral road at Navy Hill during last Saturday's 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship.



Guam's Cameron O'Neal and Austria's Carina Wasle head to Wireless Road.



Saipan's Russ Quinn crosses the road at Capital Hill for a ride up Wireless Road.



Mieko Carey and two other bikers go up Navy Hill.



Charles Epperson and four other bikers begin a long climb at Navy Hill.




Switzerland's Olivier Marceau negotiates the coral road up Mt. Tapochao.




United Kingdom's Graham Wadsworth grimaces as he heads up Navy Hill.



France's Cedric Lassonde slows down a bit after a punishing climb up Mt. Tapochao.

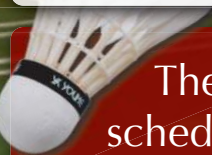


**Activity Schedule for March 28, 2012**





**8:00 AM to 12:00 PM:** Morning practices


**6:30 PM to 9:30 PM:** Evening practices



There are no scheduled games.







There are no scheduled games.





**Granger scores  
25 as Pacers beat  
Heat, 105-90**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Goodell might  
let Payton coach  
during appeal**

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28 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Ol'Aces dominating upper divisions

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

The Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces overcame Saipan Shipping Company's Jets I (2-3), 11-2, in the Senior Division of the Saipan Little League held last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



The win allowed Ol'Aces to keep its lofty perch atop the age group and its four-game winning streak intact.

On Saturday, Senior League's Juan Santiago Jets II (4-1) downed sister team Jets I, 12-6; Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera Hunters (3-2) triumphed over the IT&E Fielders (3-1), 16-10; and Natibu Sports



Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera Hunters' Nathan Sablan eyes an incoming pitch during Saturday's Senior Division matchup against the IT&E Fielders held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Association Falcons (4-2) run-ruled San Roque D-9ers (0-5), 13-3, in six innings.

In the Big League last Thursday, defending champion Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces (5-1)

defeated Sen. Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. Deleon Guer-

rero Kagman Lions (0-5), 14-6. Ol'Aces teams are also currently the frontrunners in the

Big and Junior leagues. Hawaiiya Technologies, Inc. Ol'Aces, for one, is undefeated in five games.

### SENIOR LEAGUE Ol'Aces 11, Jets I 2

Ol'Aces broke the ice in the opening frame off errors and a wild pitch to go ahead, 2-0.

Jets I got a run back in the second and briefly tied the match at 2-all in the top of the third inning, but Ol'Aces piled on five runs in the third inning off seven hits; Jessie Brel bashed a two-RBI triple, Mike Muna drove him home and scored off an error, and the last run came off a wild pitch.

Jets I's cooled off at the plate as the game progressed, while Ol'Aces trotted ahead, 10-2, in the fourth inning off a double by Muna, a wild pitch, and some errors. The last run came home off an error in the sixth frame.

Ol'Aces' Muna batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs, three runs, and a base on balls.

**See OL'ACES on  
Page 26**

## Youngest, fastest XTERRA Sport finisher

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Kaisei Toda bested 10 other XTERRA Sport participants, posting the fastest time in last Saturday's 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Toda, who at 15 was the youngest entry in the shorter course of last weekend's race, completed the .75-kilometer swim, 20-km mountain bike, and 5-km run in 2:17:14 to top the 15 to 19 age group and take the No. 1 spot overall in XTERRA Sport.

The former Tsunami Saipan swimmer was the second out of the water, finishing one lap of the swim course at Micro Beach



Kaisei Toda runs along the concrete pathway en route to Anak's driveway during last Saturday's 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

at 9:11. He then headed to Navy Hill up to Mt. Tapochao for the bike leg and returned to the bike-run transition area at the 1:43:23 mark, also the second fastest in the field. For the final leg of the triathlon race, Toda ran north up to the driveway of Anak's condominium and lost several minutes as he had second thoughts in the run course.

Toda initially thought he had to go through the Anak's woods for the run trail, but police officers manning the area told him otherwise, as XTERRA Sport run course was only up to the driveway and participants must head back to Micro Beach for the finish.

The young triathlete went on to complete the run leg in 24:50 (seventh best) and despite waste-

**See YOUNGEST on Page 26**

## Angels rally over Brewers in opener, 3-2

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

"Don't call it a comeback," said Saipan Major League Baseball Association's defending champion St. Michael's Medi-

cal Response Angels, who mounted a 3-2 comeback victory over 2011 runner-up Tan Holdings Brewers in Monday's 2012 season opener held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Brewers' leadoff batter Thomas Camacho reached on an error and scored off a wild pitch for an early 1-0 lead in the opening frame. However, Angels hurler Fran-

co Flores recovered nicely on the mound and kept a lid on the Brew crew through the remainder of regulation, allowing his teammates to lock the game at 1-all in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Angels' leadoff batter Marvin Kaipat hustled on and around with a little help from some in-field errors.

The chess match continued as a stalemate in the last three frames until the game entered

**See ANGELS on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil's Bart Demapan is chased by Andhok's Grille in the paint during the fourth quarter of their make-up game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

## Mobil sweeps make-up games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Mobil notched two more wins in one day after prevailing in its make-up games in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Mobil first defeated Andhok's Grille, 69-67, and then downed Shirley's Coffee Shop in the second make-up match of the night, 75-65. Mobil now has a 6-2 record for third place in the team standings and will face defending champion Blue Haus (6-1) in another make-up game this Friday.

A Blue Haus win will give the defending champions the No. 1 seed in the eight-team

**See MOBIL on Page 26**



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND